

1945

# The Sermons of R. C. White

R. C. White

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*The*

SERMONS

*of* R. C. WHITE





R. C. WHITE

# *The Sermons of R. C. White*

*Illustrations by*

MISS THERESA HARGETT

GEORGE W. DEHOFF, *Publisher*  
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TO  
PREACHERS AND STUDENTS  
OF  
GOD'S WORD  
AND TO  
MRS. JAMES R. HARRIS,  
MY SISTER,  
THIS LITTLE BOOK IS  
AFFECTIONATELY  
DEDICATED



## Foreword

The material used in this book is that which I have used in my work through a number of years. Every sermon has been used one or more times. I have found profit and delight in the collecting of these notes and outlines.

By request of my publisher, and due to a long cherished desire to give something to the world to continue to be a blessing after my work is ended in person, this volume has been prepared.

Some of these outlines are original, many are made up of parts gathered from outlines of others, from sermon books, from notes taken of sermons I have heard by many preachers, and from varied articles in papers. I feel greatly indebted to all these speakers and authors and acknowledge this debt and express my sincere gratitude to them and to God for this assistance. It would be impossible to tell where many of the ideas were found. I am grateful for the privilege of passing on to others these as remolded and put into these outlines.

I send this little book forth with the wish that it will help many others, a prayer that God will be honored, and the name of Christ and His church glorified by their use and helpfulness in saving souls.

R. C. WHITE.

Chattanooga, Tennessee.

## R. C. WHITE

R. C. White was born near Unionville, Bedford County, Tennessee, September 17, 1872, a son of W. G. and Mary Tabitha White. He is the eldest child and only son of six children. He was reared on a farm, working about seven months a year and going to school five. After completing the course of study of the Unionville High School, he began teaching, July 1892. He taught, in all, seventeen terms.

He also began preaching in 1892 at "Perry's Hall," now known as Jo Johnston Avenue, Nashville, Tennessee. This was soon after entering Nashville Bible School, October 25, 1892. He was then twenty years of age. He had been baptized six years before on August 21, 1886, by E. A. Elam.

Brother White graduated with a "Four-Year's Diploma" from Nashville Bible School, May 26, 1896, in the first graduating class of the school now known as David Lipscomb College. Of the five in that class he alone now survives. Brother White spent some time preaching and teaching, entered George Peabody College for Teachers, Nashville, Tennessee, in 1906, and graduated in June 1909 with high honors. He was president of the senior class, preached each Lord's day, carried extra work all the time, and received the "Dudley Medal" for the highest scholarship, greatest leadership and best moral character of the men in the class. Brother White then held meetings in summer months and served as principal and assistant principal in high schools, public and private, during the winter months. His last school was at Glass, Obion County, Tennessee, where he taught the Bible daily, with each assistant daily teaching it also.

In 1913 school work was discontinued and general evangelistic work was done out of Nashville, Tennessee, for many years. He preached in seventeen states, traveled in many others in the interest of the church. It has long been known that his converts usually remain faithful. He has always been



cautious about marrying people, refusing to say a ceremony unless he believed both were scripturally qualified.

Brother White's first work as local evangelist began in Chattanooga, Tennessee, January 19, 1936, at Cowart Street, the "Mother Church" of the Church of Christ in Chattanooga. His work has been greatly blessed and he is now (1945) in his tenth year there.

The following is from his autobiography, dated November 15, 1916. After stating that he planned to work in destitute and weak places, he said, "This I shall continue to do here till other calls make it seem that God's will may be better served. Then I hope to be ready to do whatever God wants done at whatever place. 'Thy will be done.' With a home and some means besides, I am able to work at whatever place needed, hoping always to help destitute places." He never turned down a call from a poor place.

Brother White was married to Miss Loucinda Virginia ("Jennie") Johnson, Peytonsville, Tennessee, December 19, 1894. She was a faithful helpmate ever encouraging him to go and preach. She went home to be with the Lord, February 23, 1935. In September 1937, Brother White was married to Mrs. Katherine Lawson, Nashville, Tennessee. She is actively engaged in helping him with his work.

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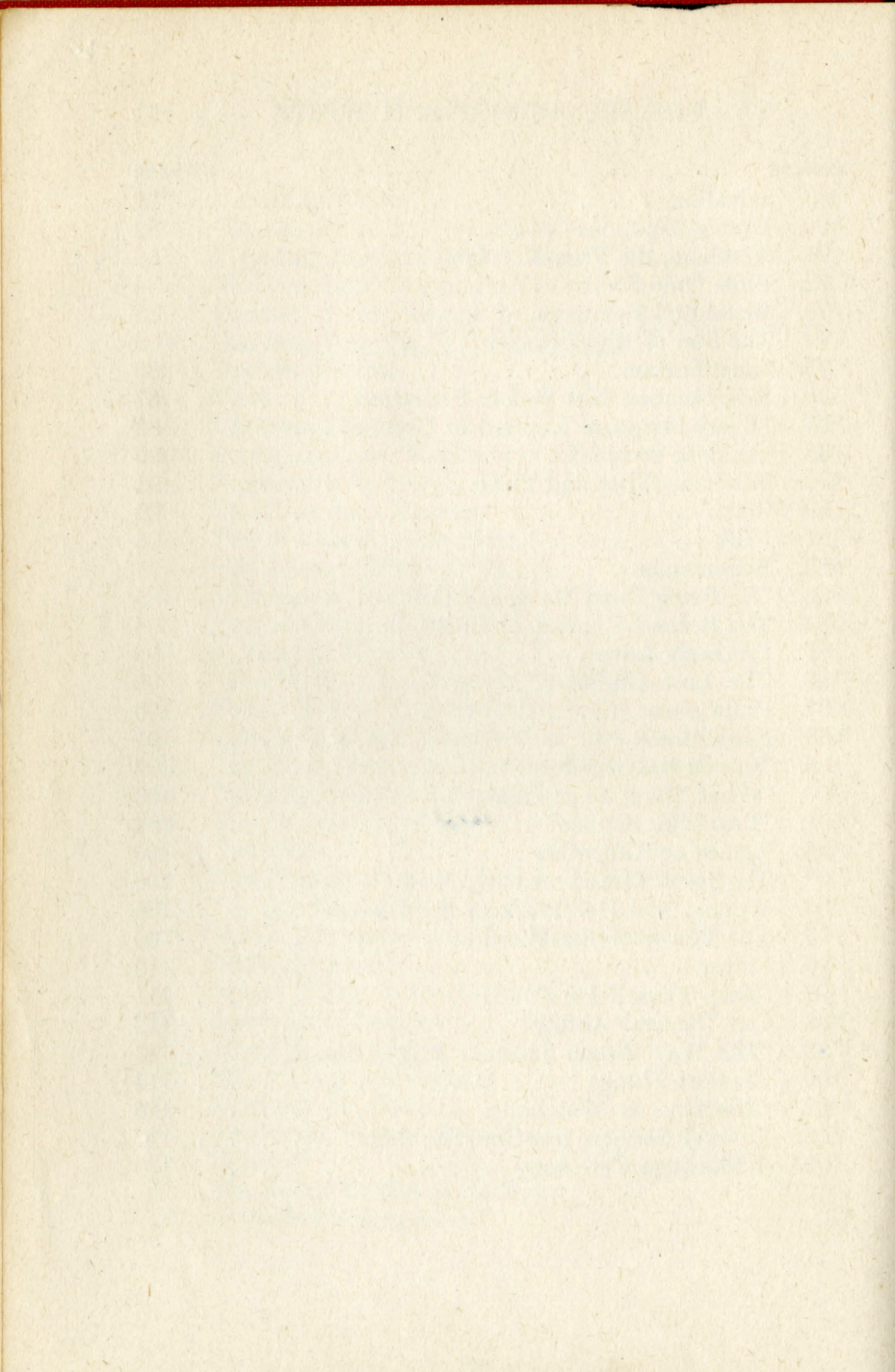
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## PREACH THE WORD

### 2 Timothy 4:1-2

*Introduction:* (1) Important theme. Solemn charge to young preacher by old one—by father in the gospel to his son. (2) Not a charge to “lecture” or discuss current topics. Though under sentence of death, Paul urges Timothy “Preach the word.” Cf. 1 Peter 4:11. (3) A diligent and prayerful study of this subject is both necessary and profitable.

### *Discussion*

- I. *What Is the Word?* Acts 8:4, 5, 12, 35; 1 Peter 1:25.
- II. *Five Helpful Questions:*
  1. Where preach? Matt. 28:19; Acts 1:8; 8:14; 20:20.
  2. When preach? Matt. 28:20; Luke 24:45; John 16:13.
  3. Who shall preach? Matt. 28:16, 19; 8:1-4; 2 Tim. 2:3.
  4. What preach? Text: 2 Cor. 2:1; 2 John 9-11.
  5. Why preach? (Seven reasons.)
    - (1) Source of all true civilization. (Illustrate.)
    - (2) Commanded by the Lord. Text: Great Commission; 1 John 5:3.
    - (3) Hear Christ. Matt. 17:5; Heb. 1:1, 2; 2:2-3.
    - (4) Produces faith. Rom. 10:17; Acts 15:7.
    - (5) Saves the soul. Ps. 19:7; Acts 11:14; James 1:21.
    - (6) Complete guide. 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:3.  
(A doctor's prescription is a guide to the druggist.)
    - (7) Leads to heaven. Acts 20:32.

*Conclusion:* (1) Brief review for emphasis. (2) Exhort to obedience of this and all scripture: Matt. 7:21; Heb. 5:8-9; Prov. 22:17. (3) Christ's invitation always in order: “Come.”



## BEWARE

Matthew 7:15; 2 Peter 3:17

*Introduction:* (1) Define: "Be on guard against," take care, avoid. (2) First used Genesis 24:6. Used 24 times in Revised Version. Idea often used. (3) Theme important. Should be studied prayerfully here.

*Discussion**I. Of What Should We Beware?*

1. Unbelief. Heb. 3:12; 12:1; Moses at Kadesh.
2. Leaven of Pharisees. Matt. 16:11; Luke 12:15.
3. Hypocrisy. Luke 12:1; Matt. 23:23, 25, 27, 29.
4. Covetousness (Idolatry). Luke 12:15.
5. Pretense. Mark 12:38; 1 Peter 3:1-4.
6. Dogs, evil workers. Phil. 3:2.
7. False teachers. Matt. 7:15; 2 Peter 2:15.

*II. Why Should We Beware? (1 Peter 3:15.)*

1. Lest we be spoiled. Col. 2:8; Cf. 2 Peter 2:2.
2. Lest we be led into error. Gal. 2:4; Jude 4.
3. Lest we fall. 2 Peter 3:17.

*III. Who Should Beware?*

1. Preachers, teachers. Rom. 2:21; 1 Timothy 4:16.
2. The elders. Acts 20:28.
3. All Christians. Phil. 1:1; 3:1-2.

*IV. How Can We Beware? (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:3.)*

1. Through knowledge. Hosea. 4:6; 2 Peter 3:17.
2. Take heed. Isa. 34:16; Mk. 8:15; Rom. 10:2.
3. Watch and pray. Mk. 13:33, 37; Luke 14:38.

*Conclusion:* (1) If lesson profits, must heed it. Prov. 18:9; James 4:17. (Woman once promised intended husband she would not attend worship, read Bible. He died. She kept promise.) (2) Value of lesson in urge to better living at all times. (3) The gospel invitation requires implicit obedience.

## WEIGHED IN THE BALANCES

Daniel 5:27

*Introduction:* (1) Place: Babylon. (Describe as fully as time allows.) Persons: Nebuchadnezzar, king who dreamed; Daniel, God's prophet who interpreted. (2) Figure of weighing suggestive and impressive here. Importance of correct weights and measures. (3) Since God presents these for our good (Romans 15:4; Proverbs 11:1), we should profit by study of theme.

*Discussion*I. *Our Ability—Responsibility—We Must Choose.*

1. If forced to act, no choice. Deut. 30:19; 2 Peter 3:9.
2. Woman in Mark 14:8 used all ability. (See Col. 3:17.)
3. None too poor to give. Mark 12:41. "As prosper."

II. *Our Opportunity.*

(Greeks represented opportunity by woman with long hair in front, short in back and wearing soft padded shoes. When past, no chance to lay hold on. Apply.)

1. Phil. 4:10. Abundant opportunities. Use them.
2. Too little interest in Bible teaching. Over half young people have no religious instruction. Too often de-tour teaching classes to other things.
3. Man in Mark 5:18 shows he had great opportunities. Matt. 23:37, failed to use, found wanting. If Paul had not gone to Macedonia, what? 1 Peter 4:18.

III. *Our Motives—Good or Bad?*

1. Bad. Building Babel. John 9:20; Phil. 1:15-17.
2. Good. 2 Kings 4:18; Matt. 10:42; Cf. Col. 3:17.
3. The woman healed. Mark 5:25-34. Right motive. How often we are careless—worship (?) with little purpose as people touched in Mark 5:31—accidentally.

*Conclusion:* (1) Review three points to emphasize lesson—we are weighed. (2) *We* are often found wanting in use of



ability, opportunity, motive. Exhortation to faithfulness. (3) Invitation is to "whosoever will" come. We are found wanting if we stand by and do not help save. See one drown and not help?

## WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

John 4:23

*Introduction:* Important. Jesus said it. Soul's interest at stake. (1) "Must"—not forced to do it; not for fame, riches but eternal inheritance of faithful as well as present happiness. (2) True worship implies responsibility and the following:

- (1) True or false in kind—elevates or degrades.
- (2) A god or God; Soul; external acts performed.
- (3) Change of acts, not principles, under different ages.
- (4) Not by man's devices but by God's will. Jer. 10:23.
- (5) No direct command. Man by nature worshipping being.
- (6) Growing need for scriptural teaching and worship.
- (7) Our worship scriptural today? Then why?

### *Discussion*

1. *Worship in Spirit—God is Spirit.* 1 Samuel 16:7.

1. Preparation of heart. Must tune radio, violin.
2. Reverence, attention. Not entertain. 1 John 2:15.
3. Relationship of classes and worship: may include an element of worship but classes (scriptural) must be kept at separate hour from Lord's day worship.

II. *Neither in Spirit nor Truth.* Cf. James 2:10.

1. Spirit alone. John 16:2; Acts 26:11; 18:25.
2. Truth alone—external acts; hull, no kernel. Even scriptural acts alone not enough. Acts 19:1-3; Phil. 1:15-17; 2 Timothy 3:5.
3. Neither. Unauthorized acts or right acts with wrong mind. See 1 Kings 12:25; 1 Cor. 11:17. (Even deeds scriptural under other conditions not right out of place.)

*Conclusion:* (1) Emphasize sacredness and reverence in worship often lacking. Quiet, calm at funerals suggest similar attitude. (2) "As it is written" necessary. Long for worship as child for trip or great event. (3) Church gateway to heaven as Holy Place in Tabernacle was into Most Holy Place, type of heaven. Hence, need to "come" to Jesus.

## CAN ONE BE SAVED OUT OF THE CHURCH?

Acts 20:28; Ephesians 5:23

*Introduction:* (1) Why ask this? All believe can be saved in the church. Of two medicines, you *know* one is right one. Which take? (2) No modern denomination meant here. No one claims these necessary to salvation. They foster division. John 17:20. (3) Study of this theme necessary. No "Yes" and "No" answers but scriptures. Study prayerfully. 1 Peter 4:11.

### *Discussion*

- I. *Branch Bear Fruit Out of Vine?* John 15:1-8. Christ is the true vine. Christians are the branches. Saved in church (Acts 2:47) and in Christ. (Gal. 3:27.)
- II. *Saved and Lost at Same Time?* Matt. 12:30. Lost out of Christ and the church. Ephesians 2:12; Cf. 1:3, 7.
- III. *Saved Without Reconciliation?* 2 Cor. 5:18-20. Reconciled in church. Eph. 2:16, Acts 2:47.
- IV. *Saved Without Being New Creatures?* 2 Cor. 5:17. New creatures in Christ hence not saved out of church.
- V. *Saved Without Being Sanctified?* Heb. 12:14. Sanctified in the church. 1 Cor. 1:1-2. Only saved in church as added by the Lord. Acts 2:47.
- VI. *Saved Out of Christ?* Eph. 1:3, 7. Cf. Col. 1:13. Baptized into Christ. (Gal. 3:27.) Baptized into His Body, the church. (1 Cor. 12:12-13.) But saved in the church; then not saved out of the church.
- VII. *Saved Without Christ's Blood?* Heb. 9:22; 10:4. Blood saves. Matt. 26:28. 1 Timothy 3:15—Christ the door.



(John 10:7-9.) As blood on door in Egypt, so here.  
(Exodus 12.)

*Conclusion:* Obedience test of acceptance. Matt. 7:21, Heb. 5:8-9. All arguments show not saved outside the church. Enter church by three steps: Believe, repent and be baptized into Christ—into the church. Saved.

## THE ARK AND THE CHURCH

Genesis 6:13-22; Matthew 16:16-18

*Introduction:* Important Bible theme. Beautiful type. (Romans 15:4; 1 Peter 3:21.) Our duty to study.

### *The Ark*

Builder: Noah, God's faithful servant.

1. One material: Gopher wood.
2. One light: Window.
3. One entrance: Door.
4. One family: Eight Noahs.
5. One name: Each of eight.
6. One building: Ark. No life-boats carried.
7. Saved *in* Ark: All food therein.
8. Destruction to all out: Flood.
9. One hope realized: Life on new world.

### *The Church*

Builder: Christ, God's Beloved Son.

1. One material: Living Stones. 1 Pet. 2:5.
2. One light: Bible. Ps. 119:105, 130.
3. One entrance: Christ the door. John 10:9.
4. One family: The Church. John 17:20; Eph. 3:15.
5. One name: Christ's. Acts 4:12; 11:26.
6. One building: Church. No societies. Eph. 3:9.
7. Saved *in* Christ: Eph. 1:3, 7; 5:23; 1 Peter 2:1.
8. Destruction to all out: 2 Thes. 1:7-9.
9. One hope to attain: Life eternal: Eph. 4:4.

*Conclusion:* Summary. Exhortation to study *all* God's word and teach it. Invitation. (I use a chart for this lesson. It also makes a good blackboard diagram for study.)

## BE YE STEADFAST

1 Corinthians 15:58

*Introduction:* Much needed lesson. Important since commanded by Holy Spirit. Helps by reproof and encouragement of others. (1 Thes. 5:12.) Embraces the two great commandments. (Matt. 22:36.) Our duty to study and exhort all to more faithfulness.

*Discussion*I. *Text Contains Two Prominent Ideas.*

1. Firmness. Prov. 24:10; Eph. 4:14.
2. Continuance. Prov. 18:9; Acts 2:42; Heb. 2:2.
3. Too many lost to church for lack of these and falling away when moving; some run away for world.

II. *The Church the Field of Activity.*

1. Ruth 2:8, 21. Illustration. Work where expect reward.
2. Church God's work shop. 1 Timothy 3:15; Eph. 3:9.
3. Rob God by contributing to other institutions and withholding contributions when away. (Contribute at place where you are but greater part at home.)

III. *Examples of Steadfastness.*

## 1. Negative:

- (1) Balaam. Numbers 22. Led Israel into sin.
- (2) Solomon. Sowed seeds of division. 1 Kings 11.
- (3) Prophet of Judah. 1 Kings 13. Cf. Matt. 10:22.

## 2. Positive:

- (1) Job. Job 1 and 2. Mentioned in New Testament. James 5:11.
- (2) Three Hebrews. Daniel 3.
- (3) Daniel. Daniel 6.
- (4) Ruth. Ruth 1:16.
- (5) Apostles, martyrs, et. al.

*Conclusion:* (1) Door now open, soon closed. Therefore, seek now. (2) "One thing needful." Exhort to faithfulness. Text. (3) Accept the great invitation to come to Jesus. Abide.



## THE CHANGE OF HEART

Exodus 14:5; Acts 16:14

*Introduction:* (1) Evil hearts must be changed. Jer. 17:9-10. God looks on heart, hence change needed if He accepts. (2) "Heart-felt" religion not appropriate. *All* is such: the good and the bad. Saul an example. Acts 26:9-10. (3) As heart is source of all conduct (Prov. 4:23; 23:7; Matt. 12:34) we need to study this important theme.

*Discussion*

- I. *What the Heart Is:* 1 Peter 4:11.
  1. Illust. by heart of wood, city. Matt. 12:40.
  2. First mention: Gen. 6:5; Cf. Jer. 31:34.
  3. Not fleshly heart. 1 Samuel 1:13; Daniel 4:16.
    - (1) If were fleshly hearts beasts could have change.
    - (2) Absalom stole. 2 Samuel 15:1-6. Here note Hebrews 8:10; 10:16. Same quotation to same people.
    - (3) Hence "mind" and "heart" here used interchangeably. Cf. also Gen. 17:11 with Luke 2:51.
- II. *Heart Source of Good and Evil.*
  1. Both kinds of acts "heart-felt."
  2. Fountain or stream good or bad as source is.
  3. Hence, Solomon right, Proverbs 23:7. Cf. Matt. 18:18.
- III. *Process of Change Illustrated.* (Chart or board.)
 

INTELLECT	Thinks	Prov. 23:7
	Understands	Matt. 13:11
	*Believes	Rom. 10:10
EMOTIONS	Desires	Rom. 10:1
	Loves	Matt. 22:37
	Trusts	Prov. 3:5
WILL	Purposes	2 Cor. 9:7
	Determines	2 Cor. 7:37
	Obeys	Rom. 6:17

\* If faith only saves, then it is only "head religion"—cold intellectuality. The "whole heart" must be changed.

*Conclusion:* All heart involved, body to be subjected. Then "heart-felt" works follow. James 2:17-26. Since 2 Cor. 5:10-11, Rev. 22:17, we invite all to come.

## FIGHTING AGAINST GOD

Acts 5:39

*Introduction:* (1) Contrast with literal fighting. 2 Kings 19:9; 2 Chron. 13:12. (2) All disobedience to God's will is "fighting against God." Matt. 12:30; Luke 10:16. (3) Hence, to avoid "fighting against God," we must study and obey God's will sincerely.

### *Discussion*

#### *I. The Evil Heart Is Against God.*

1. Heart source of all evil. Gen. 6:5; Matt. 12:34. Cf. Prov. 4:23; 23:7; Matt. 15:18.
2. Heart very deceitful. Jer. 17:9-10.
3. It is enmity against God. Rom. 8:7.

#### *II. The Mouth of the Evil Is Against God.*

1. Pours out evil. Prov. 15:28; Jude 8:15.
2. Full of cunning and deceit. Prov. 10:7; Rom. 3:14.
3. Gives out cursing and blessing. James 3:1-10.

#### *III. The Evil Life Also Is Against God.*

1. Filled with wickedness. Rom. 1:28-33; 2 Peter 2:1-10.
2. Such walk according to the course of this world. Eph. 2:1-3.
3. Company with companions against God. 1 Cor. 15:33. Peter "followed afar off." In evil company. We?

*Conclusion:* Brief review of lesson. Exhortation to avoid "fighting against God." Gal. 6:7. Accept Christ's invitation to cease such and "come."



## "WHAT WAIT I FOR?"

Psalms 39:7

*Introduction:* (1) Waiting often necessary. Prepare for duty, harvest. (2) Waiting often disastrous: operations, drowning. Not safe to wait. (3) A prayerful study of lesson helpful, needed.

- I. *Waiting for Saving Power?* Romans 1:16.
  1. If "all things are ready," no need for waiting.
  2. God made preparation complete. Willing to trust?
  3. Our need? To hear and obey gospel.
- II. *Waiting for Converting Power?* Man must turn.
  1. Pray not for this, Holy Spirit, Fire. 2 Timothy 2:15.
  2. God's law to turn (be converted). Ps. 19:7; James 1:25.
  3. Cf. Acts 2:38; 3:19; "Be baptized," "Turn."
- III. *Waiting for Perfecting Power?* Gained by growth.
  1. Paul had not attained perfection. Phil. 12:14.
  2. Study. John 17:17; Heb. 12:14; 2 Timothy 3:16-17.
  3. God's law leads to it. Ps. 19:7; James 1:25. (No man perfectly sinless: Eccl. 7:20; 1 John 1:8.)
- IV. *Waiting for God to Give You Faith?* John 8:24.
  1. Man must do the believing. Acts 15:7; Rom. 10:17.
  2. Our responsibility to teach. Great commission. Eph. 3:9-10.
  3. Hearer's responsibility to accept. Matt. 7:21.
- V. *Waiting for Others to Get Right?* Romans 14:12.
  1. Evil only do right in obeying. 2 Timothy 3:13.
  2. Save self. Personal duty. Rom. 2:1; 3:1-4.
  3. If wait, help no one, condemn self. Rom. 14:10-12.
- VI. *Waiting for More Convenient Time?* Acts 24:25.
  1. How know it will ever come? Never came to Felix.
  2. God says, "Now is the accepted time." 2 Cor. 6:2.
  3. To delay is to add to sin. James 4:17.

VII. *Waiting to Feel Right? Then Obey.* Acts 8:39.

1. Feeling result of belief whether right or wrong.
2. Examples: Gen. 37:35; Acts 23:1; 1 Timothy 1:13.
3. Then, do right and feel right. This is God's way.

*Conclusion:* Exhortation to obedience, not waiting. Christ says, "Come," never "Wait."

## GOODNESS AND SEVERITY OF GOD

Romans 11:22

*Introduction:* (1) Bible theme. Man's best interest to know. God, Matt. 6:33; John 17:3. (2) God both just and good. Prov. 12:31; John 3:16; James 1:17. (3) Our duty to know God, study His word, obey Him.

I. *God's Character Two-fold.* Ex. 34:6.

1. As just as He is good. Prov. 11:31. Many examples.
2. Vicious animals guarded. Old Testament and the law of man.
3. Courts punish criminals: parents, teachers, church. Discipline unruly. God requires it. 2 Thes. 3:6.

II. *Purpose of These Attributes.* Encourage, punish.

1. Amos 4:6-12; Matt. 25:31-46. Will we profit?
2. Romans 2:4; 1 Cor. 10:6, 11. Take heed.
3. If punishment too great, so is reward. Equality.

III. *Goodness**Examples**Severity*

- |             |                  |              |
|-------------|------------------|--------------|
| 1. Gen. 2:7 | Adam and Eve     | Gen. 3:1     |
| 3. Ex. 2:23 | Moses and Aaron  | Num. 20:10   |
| 3. Ex. 2:23 | Israel           | Num. 21:4    |
| 4. Lev. 6:9 | Nadab and Abihu  | Lev. 10:1-2  |
| 5. Rev. 2:3 | Churches of Asia | Rev. 2 and 3 |

(Make choice of these or other examples.)

*Conclusion:* Soul the crowning work of creation, too bad to lose it. Who dare reply against God for punishing evil? Is it right to allow righteous to suffer to be saved and unjustly allow the evil to go unpunished? Christ died for all, but only the willing will be saved. Come "whosoever will." Rev. 22:17.



## THE MARRIAGE FEAST versus EXCUSES

Luke 14:16-18

*Introduction:* (1) Important to aliens and erring Christians. Time and eternity involved. 1 Timothy 4:8; 2 Pet. 3:9; Rev. 22:17. (2) Excuses false. Whole heart not in it. Illustrate. One reason often used: "No man hath hired us." (3) This lesson will help us all.

I. *Few Popular Excuses.*

1. Too young. Some are. Are you. Eccl. 12:1, Deut. 6:4; Prov. 22:6; Eph. 6:4. Teach young. Three-fourths of church members from Bible classes.
2. Not good enough. When will you be? 2 Tim. 3:13; Matt. 9:13; Rom. 5:8-10; 1 Pet. 5:8; 2 Cor. 6:2.
3. Too good, "Better than many in church." Jer. 10:23; Matt. 7:21; 2 Cor. 10:12. "Cannot eat supper with brother A." Man good to self, neighbor, God. See Romans 1:16. Blood on door in Egypt. Saved in Christ.
4. Far cannot hold out. Failed once, forgiven seven times in one day. Finish crop? Use education? Esther 4:16.
5. Associates will ridicule me. Courage. Joshua 24:15. Rehoboam, 1 Kings 12; Cf. 1 Cor. 15:33. Learn.
6. My people object. Mother cannot answer for you at the judgment. John Smith, famous pioneer preacher, said, "No, I must act for myself." Matt. 10:34; Luke 16:19; 1 Peter 3:1.
7. Too many ways: which is right? Jesus said, "Follow me." Acts 17:11. Cf. Isa. 35:8; John 7:17; 14:6; 1 John 4:1f.

II. *One Reason for Not Obeying God.* Rom. 1:20.

Heart not fully set on it. Col. 3:1; Heb. 11:24-26.

*Conclusion:* Man not persecuted. Why? Did not tell he was a Christian. Exhort to be Christians, to be more faithful. If you do not accept now, may be too late. Text, verse 24.

## "BE THOU AN EXAMPLE"

1 Timothy 4:12

*Jno. 13:15*

**Introduction:** (1) All know value of example, pattern. Good ones to be followed. Ex. 40:25; 1 Peter 5:3. Bad to be avoided. 1 Sam. 8:1-4; 16:7; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17. (2) Danger signals important as guide posts: neighbors, teachers, associates, parents—all influence us. Let "our minister" watch here. To all "watch." (3) The heart is the source as the first quotation each time is about the heart.

## I. "Be Thou An Example in . . ."

1. "Word." Matt. 12:34f; Eph. 4:29; Col. 4:6; 1 Peter 4:11; Psalms 19:14. *speech he with grace seasoned with salt. Cf. 1st 2:15*
2. "Manner of life." Prov. 4:23; 23:7; Matt. 15:18; 5:16; 1 Pet. 3:1. *"Keep thy heart" Cf. ch 3:15 Behaviour. Department*
3. "Love." Matt. 22:35; John 13:35; 15:13; 1 John 5:3. Lesson in 1 Cor. 8:10, 12.
4. "Faith." Rom. 10:10; Eph. 6:16; 1 Thes. 5:2. Bishop Muson on 1 John 2:18, "John thought this was so but it is not." Such calls for buckling on the "shield of faith." *Keep trust + Fidelity +*
5. "Purity." Matt. 5:8. Chastity much needed in men and women; young and old. 1 Timothy 5:2; James 1:27; 2 Peter 3:12. Care for body, temple of Holy Spirit. 1 Cor. 3:16. "An old preacher said, 'Converse sparingly with women, especially young women.'"—Adam Clarke. 1 Tim. 5:2, 22.

**Conclusion:** (1) Need for good examples great: Watch such as "Our minister does so and so and he is wise and good." (2) "If every member of this church were just like me, what kind of church would this church be?" Heart is fountain, as is fountain so is stream. (3) If you are an example, continue. If not, become one.



## THE WAY WHICH SEEMETH RIGHT

Proverbs 14:12

cf. 113

*Introduction:* (1) Important as deception so easy. Many standards. The way right to one, wrong to another. God's or man's? (2) Study: Deut. 12:8; Isa. 55:9; Jer. 10:23; Prov. 30:12; Luke 16:15; John 16:2; Rom. 10:2; Gal. 6:7; Cf. 1 Kings 18:11. (3) The Bible being true guide we should have no other.

I. *"If Only Honest and Sincere."* A delusion.

1. Poison thus taken kills. Only religion so used.
2. "Vox populi, vox Dei"—"The voice of the people, the voice of God."
  - (1) Error in this. Gen 6:5f. People vs. Noah.
  - (2) False prophets vs. Ahab. 2 Chron. 18.
  - (3) Jews at Crucifixion. Acts 3:14f.
3. Jacob thought Joseph dead 22 years. Gen. 37:33.

II. *What Proves Too Much Proves Nothing.*

1. If doctrine true, all religions and heathen safe. But: Matt. 7:21, 1 Thes. 3:2; Heb. 11:6.
2. Mohammedans, John 8:24; Buddhists, etc. Rom. 1:16.
3. Morality: many Jews, Infidels, Cornelius (Acts 10). See Mk. 16:16; John 8:24; Eph. 1:3, 7.

III. *Bibles Examples Illustrating Truth.* 1 Peter 4:11.

1. Uzzah touched ark, died. Num. 4:15f; 2 Sam. 6:6-7.
2. Uzziah, not priest, burnt incense. 2 Chron. 26:18.
3. Prophet of Judah. 1 Kings 13:1f; Gal. 1:6-10.
4. Nadab and Abihu. Lev. 10:1-2; Heb. 2:2-3.
5. Balaam. Numbers 22:1; 2 John 9-11.
6. Moses and Aaron. Num. 20:10; Rom. 15:4.
7. Saul of Tarsus. Acts 23:1; Cf. John 16:2.

*Conclusion:* Take God at His word. 1 Samuel 15:22; Matt. 7:21; Heb. 5:8-9. Live right: Girl did not engage in high school dance but influenced class to change entertainment at commencement. Another did not go on Botany field work on Sunday. Acts 4:29; 5:19. Since the best house only shelters

ones inside and God's house is the church (1 Timothy 3:15), God's protection is for those inside.

## "THE WELLS OF SALVATION"

Isaiah 12:3

*Introduction:* (1) Many figures in Bible. Text one following chapter 11. Prophecy of Christ, "Root of David," etc. (2) Isaiah calls God his "salvation." Christ is the medium in our age. "Draw water out of the wells of salvation." (3) Christ has the "living water." We "never thirst." Study lesson diligently, prayerfully.

### *Discussion*

- I. *Blessings of Gospel Like Water.* Text.
  1. Refreshes as only water does. Vegetables from effects of drouth. So gospel to soul. Rom. 1:16.
  2. Purifies, cleanses. Streams purify in short distance. Gospel purifies. Acts 15:7f; 1 Peter 1:22f.
  3. A universal necessity. Washes, quenches thirst. So gospel to save all. Great commission. Conversions.
- II. *The Wells of Water Are:*
  1. The commands of God. Rev. 22:14.
  2. Ordinances of God. Luke 1:16.
  3. Only source of living water. Jer. 2:13; John 4:10.
- III. *Each Man Must Draw with Joy.* Text.
  1. Because God gives rather than receives. James 4:17.
  2. Each man must draw for himself. Rom. 14:12.
  3. Specific reasons for this drawing:
    - (1) The water is free. Isaiah 55:1.
    - (2) It satisfies. John 4:14.
    - (4) Springs up unto life eternal. John 4:14.

*Conclusion:* Exhortation to drawing divine water, not substitutes. Gospel, not man's doctrines, saves. "Ask for the old paths, and walk therein." See Romans 1:16; Matt. 15:9; Jer. 2:13. Come to divine wells to draw, drink of the living water that springs up unto life eternal.



## WARNINGS AGAINST FALLING AWAY

1 Corinthians 10:12

*Introduction:* (1) Falling of body dangerous, serious. Soul more so. (2) Individuals, congregations, whole bodies fall away. (3) Hence, need for study along this line.

*Discussion*I. *Examples of Falling Away.* Romans 15:4.

1. Adam and Eve in beginning. Gen. 3:1f.
2. Jews as a nation went into captivity. 2 Chron. 36:16.
3. Sadder still the church fell away. 2 Thess. 2.

II. *Christians Fall Because:*

1. Fail to consider. Isaiah 1:3. Meditate day and night.
2. Forgetful hearers, not doers. James 1:24.
3. Yield to worldly influences. Prov. 16:18. This true of Demas. 2 Timothy 4:10; 2 John 2:15-17.
4. Sudden temptations. 1 Cor. 10:13; 2 Cor. 12:9. Contrast Christ. Heb. 4:14-15; Gal. 6:1f.
5. Failure to watch. Matt. 26:41; Mark 13:35, 37.
6. Lack of diligence. 2 Peter 1:5-10. Too many listless, inattentive at worship, inactive in work.
7. Failure to do what we know. James 4:17. Fail in: Daily Bible reading, frequent prayer, attendance at all public services and worship. (If one did these three things truly, he would never fall away.)

*Conclusion:* (1) Exhortation to greater diligence in all things. (2) Invitation to aliens and fallen Christians to come.

## BIBLE STUDY

2 Timothy 2:15

*Introduction:* (1) Bible study not optional—commanded. John 14:23. (2) If we study, we obey God; if not, we disobey God, hence sin. (3) Theme "Bible Study" is profitable to all.

*Discussion*I. *Things Helpful in Profitable Study.*

1. Approach study reverently. 1 Thess. 2:13. Cynic's attitude forbids seeing beauty. Matt. 11:25.
2. Must have desire to learn. Defeated if read as a sealed book. For *all*, not preachers only. Properly divide. Text. Cf. Deut. 29:29; Eph. 3:3, 4. Timothy knew Old Testament, hence New Testament easier. 2 Timothy 1:5; 3:15. Need open mind (Acts 17:11). No colored glasses.
3. Must have willingness to *do* when learn. Matt. 7:21; James 4:17; Rev. 22:14.

II. *Things that Hinder from Profitable Study.*

1. Fear of self-condemnation. Matt. 8:28, 29.
2. Desire to justify self in:
  - (1) Failure to study, pray, stay away from worship.
  - (2) Misinterpretation of evil practices. 2 Thes. 2:11f.
  - (3) Acceptance and effort to prove false doctrine, hobbies, wedded to pet scriptures. Deut. 8:3; Matt. 23:23. "Say and do not."
3. Self-satisfaction. No desire to know or do more.

III. *Why Bible Should Be Studied.* 1 Peter 3:15.

1. Of greatest importance. Rom. 10:17; Heb. 11:6.
2. Teaches we profit while in body. 1 Timothy 4:8-9.
3. All information about here and hereafter. 2 Peter 1:3.
4. Teaches how to be saved from past sins. Romans 6:16f.
5. Equips for greater service in church. 2 Timothy 3:16.
6. Saves from eternal destruction. Hosea 4:6; 2 Thes. 1:7f.
7. Leads to heaven. Matt. 25:34; Acts 20:32.

*Conclusion:* (1) Exhortation to study the Bible. Evils of ignorance. (2) Remember that Christ invites all to come unto Him for rest.



## THREE REQUIREMENTS OF JEHOVAH

Micah 6:8

*Saw, pedlar, & Brother  
God, word, lying  
God, father, son*

*Introduction:* (1) One of many threes. Mention others.  
(2) Get context, verse 1-7. Weary you to serve God? To do good? Rejoice in being saved? Helping others?  
*Discussion:* What doth Jehovah require of Thee?

- I. *To Do Justly.* Be fair, deal honestly. 2 Cor. 8:21.
  1. "Walk honestly." Prov. 11:1; 21:3; Rom. 13:13.
  2. Before God and man. 2 Cor. 8:21; 1 Peter 2:12f. Often we are judged by the worst, not best. 1 Cor. 10:27f.
  3. Hence we must deal justly in: (1) Keeping promises. ✓ Eccl. 4:5; Rom. 13:8. (2) Speaking truth vs. "polite lying." Ephesians 4:28. (3) Doing best work in all relationships. Eph. 6:5-9.
- II. *Love Kindness.* (Show mercy. A. V.)
  1. One step above justness. Illustrate. John 8:1-11.
  2. Second commandment. Give benefit of doubt. ✓
  3. Render help to needy. Gal. 6:9-10; Matt. 25:31f.
- III. *Walk Humbly.* Not in own ways but in God's. Isa. 55:9.
  1. Prov. 3:6 vs. mock humility. Col. 2:23.
  2. Belief vs. infidelity:
    - (1) *Christianity* positive ("Do"). Affirmative ("Yea"). Constructive "Builds up." 2 Cor. 2:20 vs. *Infidelity*, negative. Doubtful, destructive. No hope beyond earth. No songs of joy. (A. Campbell and Robert Owen regarding ox nearby.)
    - (2) Human philosophy not modern. Flourished in day of Paul. (Col. 2:8-9.) Greek culture. Superstition and idolatry its companions, *but*
    - (3) Christ and Christianity ever the same. Help all. "Fear God and keep His commandments. . . whole duty." Eccl. 12:13-14; Matt. 7:21; Eph. 2:10.

*Conclusion:* Review, exhortation to faithfulness, invitation.

## THINGS NEW IN THE BIBLE

## 2 Corinthians 5:17

*Introduction:* (1) Man seeks new things. Acts 17:21. New ways of travel, doing work, living. (2) God allows no new gospel. Gal. 1:6-10. Man seeks such. (3) Need to study, use only new things which Bible gives.

*Discussion*

- I. *A New Covenant.* Jer. 31:31-34.
  1. Minor covenants. Gen. 9:8-17; 17:9-14.
  2. Mosaic (National). Deut. 4:12-13; 5:2f; Heb. 8:12.
  3. New covenant (World-wide). Jer. 31:31f; Matt. 28:19.
- II. *New Creatures.* 2 Cor. 5:17.
  1. Become such by "new birth." John 3:3, 5.
  2. In thought. Phil. 4:8; cf. Prov. 23:7; Matt. 12:34.
  3. In conduct. Rom. 6:3, 4; Col. 3:1.
- III. *New Garments.* Col. 1:1-14; 1 Peter 2:1f.
  1. Put off the old. Col. 3:8.
  2. Put on the new. Col. 3:12.
  3. This above all. Col. 3:14. Cf. Rom. 13:14. Who wants to wear part old and tattered clothing and part new? Envy, malice, etc., must be put away to wear new.
- IV. *New Way.*
  1. For the redeemed only. Isa. 35:8.
  2. Christ is this way. John 14:6.
  3. Consecrated, new and living way. Heb. 10:20.
- V. *New Workship.* John 22:23; Acts 2:42.
  1. In spirit and truth. John 4:22-23.
  2. All priests unto God. 1 Peter 2:5, 9.
  3. Bodies living sacrifices vs. animals. Rom. 12:1f.
- VI. *New Day of Worship.* Ps. 18:22f; Hos. 2:11; Amos 8:9.
  1. Sabbath of Jew gone. Deut. 5:2-15; Col. 2:16.
  2. First day for Christians. Mk. 16:1f; John 20:19-20.
  3. Worship on first day. Acts 2:42; 20:7f; 1 Cor. 16:1-2.



VII. *New Rest and Home—Heaven.* Heb. 4:5-11.

1. Jews enter Canaan as promised to Abraham.
2. Canaan temporary—temporal—passing—past.
3. Heaven eternal. Heb. 11:10; 13:14; Rev. 21:4; 22:5.

*Conclusion:* (1) Emphasize man's new ways wrong in religion. (2) Exhort all to "ask for the old paths." (3) Christ still invites all to come, to obey.

## SPIRITUAL STRENGTH

Ephesians 6:10

*Introduction:* (1) Contrast worldly and spiritual ideals. (2) Strength of body (Samson), mind (Solomon), Soul (Jesus). (3) The theme "Spiritual Strength" deserves prayerful and diligent consideration and application.

*Discussion*

- I. *Spiritual Strength Needed for Work.* John 9:4; Col. 1:11.
  1. To overcome temptations. 1 Peter 5:8; Rev. 3:5.
  2. To be not tossed to and fro. Eph. 4:14, 15. Stand up.
  3. That may be blessed. Matt. 5:1-12; Phil. 4:4.
- II. *How Spiritual Strength Is Manifested.* 1 Thes. 5:21.
  1. By faithful attendance at:
    - (1) Lord's day worship. Acts 2:42; Heb. 10:25.
    - (2) Mid-week meetings. Titus 3:1; Heb. 13:17.
    - (3) Note: Not altogether optional; weak may attend regularly, but not strong if do not. Heb. 10:25.
  2. Ability to receive meat of word. 1 Cor. 15:58; James 1:22; Jude 3.
- III. *Spiritual Strength Obtained.* 1 Peter 3:15; 4:11.
  1. "Put on the whole armor of God." Eph. 6:11-13.
  2. By earnest and frequent prayer. Eph. 6:18; Phil. 4:13.
  3. By diligent study. Ps. 119:11; Eph. 6:14; 1 Tim. 4:15f.
  4. By faithfulness in worship. 1 Cor. 11:30f.
    - (1) Regular, steadfast. (2) True worship, John 4:24.
  5. By proper associations. 1 Cor. 15:33. Where attend?

IV *Spiritual Strength maintained*

6. By proper exercise. Heb. 5:11-14. (1) "Jehoida strengthened himself." 2 Chron. 23:1; (2) Rehoboam failed in this. 1 Kings 11:1f.
7. By teaching others. Rom. 2:21-22; 2 Timothy 2:2.

*Conclusion:* (1) Emphasize important divisions of the lesson. (2) Exhort all to seek more spiritual strength that a more pleasing and profitable service may be rendered. (3) Christ's invitation is to everyone who wills.

## THE WAGES OF SIN

Romans 6:23

*Introduction:* (1) Sin began in Eden. Grows with age (time). In peace time we note about one death every second. Always more lost than saved. How terrible to contemplate fate. Death of about 70% due to effects of sin. (2) Cost is enormous—more than Federal and local taxes; more than cost of army and navy in peace time. If its effect only seen in time, great; but eternity will be found revealing consequences. (3) Surely such astounding facts and results demand a careful and prayerful study. See Numbers 32:23.

### *Discussion*

#### I. *What Is Sin.*

1. Lawlessness. 1 John 3:4. All unrighteousness.
2. Neglect of duty. Prov. 18:9; Heb. 2:1; James 4:17.
3. Any and all disobedience. 1 Samuel 15:22.

#### II. *Characteristics of Sin.*

1. Deceitful. Heb. 3:13.
2. Hardens the heart. Heb. 3:8. Pharaoh an example.
3. It grows as it is followed. 2 Tim. 3:13. Cursing, drink, narcotics, etc.

#### III. *Final Results of Sin.*

1. Leads to temporal death. Rom. 5:12.
2. Separates from, God on earth, hades, eternity. Isa. 59:2; Luke 16:26f; Matt. 25:46.
3. Ends in everlasting punishment. 2 Thes. 1:7-9; Rev. 21:8.



*Plan for alien sinners  
Plan for brown child,*

*Prepared in  
relationships  
Charact*

**Conclusion:** (1) Since sin is great curse on soul, since Jesus came and died to redeem all mankind; all ought to hear and obey. (2) Heaven is prepared place for people prepared by being forgiven of sin. No sin there. John 14:1f. (3) Hear, obey by accepting terms of the gospel, be saved.

## REMEMBER LOT'S WIFE

Luke 17:32

**Introduction:** (1) Many things should be kept in memory. Remember: obedience brings blessing, disobedience brings curse. "Remember" in all forms in Bible about 265 times. (2) Lot went toward Sodom because of enmity and greed. (Gen. 13.) Many "pitch" tents toward Sodom, then into Sodom. (3) Then the lesson important, as warning to parents, teachers, elders, preachers—all three major divisions.

### Discussion

#### I. All Must Come Out of Satan's Kingdom.

1. Old Testament examples illustrating: Rom. 15:4.
  - (1) Abraham. Gen. 11:31; 12:1-2; Acts 7:1f; Heb. 12:8.
  - (2) Israel under Moses. Ex. 7:2f; Heb. 11:24-26.
  - (3) Ruth accompanied Naomi. Ruth 1:1f; Matt. 10:34f.
2. New Testament examples illustrating: 2 Peter 1:3.
  - (1) Come out of the world. 2 Cor. 6:17; Col. 1:13.
  - (2) As Christians love not the world. John 15:18; James 4:4.
  - (3) Man's ways (worldly) not God's. Isa. 55:9; Luke 16:15.

#### II. The Church the Field of Activity. Eph. 3:10.

1. Ruth worked only in field of Boaz. Ruth 2:8, 22.
2. Church only divine means to show God's wisdom. Eph. 3:9f.
3. Other competing organizations rob God. Col. 3:17.

#### III. We Must Abide in the Church (in Christ). John 15:1-8.

1. Lot's wife looked back. Gen. 19; Luke 17:32.

2. Warnings to disciples. Luke 9:62; 2 Tim. 4:10.
3. Results paralleled for study:
  - (1) Matt. 24:12 and Acts 7:60.
  - (2) Gal. 3:1f and 2 Timothy 4:6-8.
  - (3) Rev. 3:15f and Rev. 22:14.

*Conclusion:* (1) Briefly review the three sections for emphasis. (2) Exhortation not to start toward Sodom for separation not only here but in hades and eternity. (3) Heed Christ's warning not to turn back.

## SEVEN GREAT BIBLE QUESTIONS

Matthew 7:7-11

Introduction: (1) Seven a perfect number—seems so in Bible. A few complete cycles in Bible named here. (2) Seven items in unity (Eph. 4:4-6). Must "keep" unity. (3) No surprise at finding other groups of seven.

### Discussion

- I. *"What Doth Jehovah Require of Thee?"* Micah 6:8.
  1. To do justly
  2. To love kindness.
  3. To walk humbly with God.
- II. *"What Shall a Man Be Profited?"* Matt. 16:26.  
Illustrate by various relative values.
- III. *"What Do Ye More Than Others?"* Matt. 5:47; Cf. v. 20.  
Emphasize Christian responsibility. Luke 12:47-48.
- IV. *"How Shall We Escape?"*  
Heb. 2:2; Prov. 18:9; James 1:22; Rev. 3:15-17. All these emphasize the truth.
- V. *"What Must I Do to Be Saved?"* Acts 16:30.  
Discuss different answers to this. Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16.  
Show harmony and identical obedience.
- VI. *"What Doth Hinder Me to Be Baptized?"* Acts 8:36.
  1. Many things hinder different people.
  2. Only one thing justly hinders any—lack of faith.
  3. What hinders you? Christians must teach others.



## VII. "What Shall Be the End?" 1 Peter 4:17-18.

Answer in 2 Thess. 1:7-9. Let all hear, obey.

*Conclusion:* (1) Many more questions and answers might be profitably studied. (2) Seven necessities to salvation: Preach word, hear, believe, repent, confess, be baptized for remission of sins, be faithful to the end. (3) Are you ready thus to accept Christ? Now is the day of salvation. Come!

## THIS WORLD IS NOT OUR HOME

Hebrews 11:13-16

*Introduction:* (1) Brief study from creation to end of world. (2) Corruption, Flood, Fire next. 2 Peter 3:1-7. (3) This should engage our earnest and prayerful attention.

*Discussion* *Some make plans as though they intend to live on earth forever - I disagree*

I. *World Not Suited for an Eternal Home.* *earth*

1. Man, like all earthly things, dies. Illustrate. Heb. 9:27.
2. Earth full of sorrow and death. Ps. 38:17; John 11:35.
3. Pleasures and joys of earth transient. 2 Cor. 4:18.

II. *World Unable to Give Bliss for Which We Sigh.*

1. Job did not desire to live always. Job 7:16.
2. David spoke of flying away. Psalms 55:6.
3. Paul desired to depart. Phil 1:23; 3:13-21.

III. *Heaven Will be an Eternal Home of Bliss.* *2 Cor. 5:1, 2*

1. Jesus is preparing the many mansions. John 14:6.
2. It will be a building of God. 2 Cor. 5:1; Heb. 11:16.
3. No more death there. Luke 20:35-36; Rev. 21:4.
4. It will be free from sorrow. Rev. 21:4.
5. With joys evermore. Psalms 16:11.
6. Redeemed of all ages as associates. Matt. 8:11; 19:29.
7. Eternal life possessed. Matt. 25:46a; Rev. 22:14.

*Conclusion:* Exhortation to faithfulness to the end. Matt. 10:22. Christ invites all to leave the world. "Come."

## "YE ARE NOT YOUR OWN"

1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Exodus 13:1; Acts 20:28

*Introduction:* (1) Note context: members part of body as branch of vine. Flee all evil. Countenance tells. Neh. 2:2; Prov. 15:13; Isa. 3:9. (2) What constitutes a temple? Two things necessary: Place devoted to Deity, Deity's dwelling place. Old Testament temple, national worship. Exodus 20:24; Deut. 12:5-14. Christ's body called temple. John 2:19-21; Cf. 17:21. Each Christian and whole church a temple of Holy Spirit. Text, 1 Cor. 3:16. (3) "Ye are not your own" profitable study.

*Discussion*I. *Some Simple Illustrations of This Lesson.*

1. Owners of earthly things. Cf. Ps. 24:1; Acts 17:24-25.
2. Man in God's image. Gen. 2:7; Eccl. 12:7.
3. Stewardship of *soul most sacred* of all things. Obey gospel and keep life and influence ready for use at God's call. Illustrate: Deposits in bank, funds with guardians. All Christians as well as elders are stewards. Heb. 13:7.

II. *Three Great Lessons Here Taught.*

1. Unselfishness. Debtor to God and man. Rom. 1:14.
2. Consecration. Titus 2:11; Phil. 2:3-5; James 4:3.
3. Workers with God. 2 Cor. 6:1; Cf. Matt. 6:33.
4. Children under age belong to Parents. Gal. 4:1f.

III. *That Bought and Its Increase the Buyers.*

1. First born of Jews (Ex. 13:1); Later Levites (Numbers 3:12); Talents (Matt. 25:14).
2. You—not yours (2 Cor. 8:5); then substances (Prov. 3:9); services (Matt. 6:33). Truly we own nothing—all God's. Time, money, talents. Be zealous.
3. Church the Lamb's pride. Bought, hence His own. Acts 20:28; 1 Cor. 7:23; 2 Cor. 11:2.
4. Tabernacle type. Numbers 1:51; 18:7; Col. 3:17. Lodges use only regular members. Cf. Luke 16:8.



*Conclusion:* "If every member of this church were just like me, what kind of church would this church be?" Give an account of our stewardship at any time. Ready? Make proper preparation for judgment.

## SEVEN MARKS OF A TRUE CHRISTIAN

1 Peter 4:16

*Introduction:* (1) First must become a Christian, Grow to ideal. (2) Cattle branded, uniforms distinguish. Cf. 2 Kings 1:7-8.

### *Discussion*

- I. *Does Not Deny Name Christian.*  
Isa. 62:2; Acts 11:26; 26:28; 1 Peter 4:16; "Ranters?" No. Acts 4:12.
- II. *Doers of the Word.* James 1:22f.  
Not "Say and do not." 1 Peter 2:1-2. Poisonous vs. wholesome food.
- III. *More Than Moral and Charitable.* Acts 10:1f.  
See 1 Cor. 13:1-13; Col. 3:17; 1 Peter 4:3-4; 4:16-18.
- IV. *Cannot Be Neutral.* Matt. 12:30; 2 Peter 1:5-12.
- V. *Can Not Serve Two Masters.* Matt. 6:24; 2 Cor. 2:11; 2 Tim. 3:5.
- VI. *Must Not Love the World.*  
John 15:15f; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17; Rev. 3:15-17; "Be ye holy." Heb. 12:14.
- VII. *"Seek Ye First the Kingdom."* Matt. 6:33.  
2 Peter 1:5-12. Many examples enforcing this lesson from positive and negative side. Forgive, suffer affliction, follow peace. Abraham and Lot as example; also Isaac and Abimelec; Rom. 14:19.

*Conclusion:* (1) Often our greatest right is to surrender our rights. (2) Our light shines in proportion to our faithfulness to above qualities. (3) Christ always invites all in need of blessings to "Come."

## THE THIEF ON THE CROSS

Luke 23:32; 39-42

*Introduction:* (1) This lesson one of most important on proper division of the word. One of the most needed. (2) Much discussion has been, has occupied men, many do not understand. Thief lived and died under the law, not under grace. If saved (I so believe), was saved like others in the personal ministry of Christ and not under the gospel. Christ still alive then.

*Discussion*I. *Patriarchal Age.* B.C. 4004-1491.

From Eden to Sinai.

Family altar worship; blood of animals, patriarchs as priests, no set day of worship, no written law given. Promise to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob. 430 years later the law was added.

II. *Jewish Age.* B.C. 1491 to A.D. 30.

From Sinai to Calvary.

Tabernacle, temple. Blood of animals, Levites as Priests, Sabbath, feast days, first covenant, ten commandments, law of Moses, law of works. "Till the seed should come." Gal. 3:19.

Christ's will not in force when thief died. Gal. 2:21; Eph. 2:14; Col. 2:14; Heb. 7:12; 8:4-6; 9:16-17.

III. *Waiting Period.* Forty days.

Resurrection to Pentecost.

Christ in tomb three days. On earth forty days. Fifty-two days from cross to Pentecost. (Resurrection day counted twice, of course.) See Luke 24:47-49 for this waiting period after ascension. John 16:13; Acts 1:1, 4, 8; 2:1-4.

IV. *Christian Age.* A.D. 30 to end.

Pentecost to the end of the world.

Church of Lord. Blood of Christ. Christians as priests. First day of the week. Second covenant. New Testament.



Gospel of faith, not law. Gal. 3:24-25; Gal. 2:21; 3:29. Christ's will in force now. See Hebrews 9:16-17 with Acts 2:1-47.

*Conclusion:* Exhortation to study. 2 Tim. 2:15. (I use this on cloth chart. It also makes a fine blackboard lesson dividing the board into four sections—one for each age or period and putting the cross of Christ right in the end of the Jewish age.)

## THE GOSPEL

Romans 1:16; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

*Introduction:* (1) "Gospel" means "good news." Here good news is from God to man about his salvation. (2) Name a few of the main lessons taught about the "Gospel"—different phases of it. (3) A study of the gospel worthy of all faithful and interested people and will show importance of it as revealed in the New Testament.

### *Discussion*

#### I. *Its Beginning.*

All beginnings important. Survey illustrates this. Buildings and foundations show this. Both moral life without Christ and outward acts apart from a consecrated and sincere heart are failures. 1 Samuel 16:7; Matt. 12:34f; Titus 2:10-12.

#### II. *Time of Beginning of the Gospel.*

Between Luke 24:47-49 and Acts 11:15. Study well Mark 9:1; Luke 24:47-49; Acts 1:4-8; 2:47; 10:37.

#### III. *Full Gospel Has Record of Five Points:*

(1) Death of Christ, (2) Burial of Christ, (3) Resurrection of Christ, (4) Christ's Blood shed on Calvary, (5) Faith, repentance and baptism for remission of sins—all to be preached and accepted. Acts 2:14-23; 1 Cor. 15:1-4; Matt. 26:28; Heb. 9:22. All cases of conversion in Acts show this done by inspired men.

#### IV. *Where? When? By Whom Was Such Teaching and Obeying Done?*

By Old Testament teachers? By John the Baptist? By Christ in Person? By Peter, but when? Where? Note well: Luke 24:47-49; Acts 1:14; 2:1-47; 1 Cor. 12:28.

#### V. *Study of the Five P's.*

Purposes of God; Promises of God; Prophecies; Preparation; the Cross; Perfection. (Old Testament and New Testament scriptures may be easily supplied.)

*Conclusion:* (1) Responsibility of teachers. Gal. 1:6-10; 1 Pet. 4:11; 2 John 9-11. (2) Responsibility of hearers. Take heed how hear. Lesson in Luke 16:19-31. Only recorded prayer in New Testament for power or effort apart from word and this denied. Hear God's word. (3) Christ invites all to accept him by hearing, believing, repenting, confessing Him and being buried with Him in baptism to rise to walk in newness of life. "Come."

## THE ELEMENTS OF THE GOSPEL

### 2 Corinthians 4:4

*Introduction:* (1) Bible subject. Important. Logically follows "The Gospel." (Use of diagram or chart for this is important and profitable for a good understanding.) (2) Not to obey the gospel, God's power to save, is to be forever lost. Study well.

#### *Discussion*

- I. *Meaning of the Term Gospel.* See Luke 2:10.
- II. *Why Called Glorious Gospel.*
  1. Its origin—from God. Gal. 1:11-12.
  2. Its spirit—love. Rom. 5:8, 10.
  3. Its object—to save. Rom. 1:16.
  4. Its extent—all men. Heb. 2:9; Titus 2:11.
- III. *Necessity for Preaching the Gospel.* 1 Cor. 1:21.
  - 1 Cor. 9:16; Rom. 1:16. Makes wise unto salvation.
  - 2 Tim. 3:15.



IV. *Elements of the Gospel.* Listed and defined.

1. Truths—Things certain. Must accept.
  - (1) God is. Heb. 11:6.
  - (2) Rewards seeker. Heb. 11:6.
  - (3) Christ is God's Son. John 3:16.
2. Facts. Things done. Must believe.
  - (1) Christ died. 1 Cor. 15:1-4.
  - (2) Was buried.
  - (3) Christ arose from the dead.
3. Commands. Things required. Must obey.
  - (1) Believe. 1 John 3:23.
  - (2) Repent. Acts 17:30.
  - (3) Be baptized. Acts 10:47-48.
4. Promises. Things to enjoy. Must not despise.
  - (1) Remission. Acts 2:38.
  - (2) Gift of Holy Spirit. Acts 2:38.
  - (3) Eternal Life. 1 John 2:25; 5:11.

*Conclusion:* (1) Brief review of chief points as time permits. (Review will be necessarily brief of course.) (2) Exhortation to sinners to obey. (3) Christ made salvation possible and invites all in need of it to come to Him.

## THE JUDGMENT

Amos 4:12; Hebrews 9:27; Acts 17:30-31

*Introduction:* (1) Preparation to meet God in peace here prepares for meeting at the last day. (2) Time only is allotted in which to meet and prepare. No change after death. Luke 16:19-31. (3) While we live is, therefore, important time and this study should prove profitable to all.

*Discussion*I. *Life Is Light.*

Life in the blood—physical and spiritual life. Day of rewards coming to all.

II. *Death.*

Its cause—sin. (Ezekiel 18:4, 20.) Its nature—separation. (James 2:26.) After death—no probation. (2 Peter 2:9; Luke 16:19f).

III. *Will There Be A Judgment?*

Matt. 25:31-32. Acts 17:30-31; Heb. 9:27.

IV. *Who Will Be the Judge?*

Matt. 25:31-32; John 5:22, 29.

V. *Who Will Be Judged?*

Matt. 25:31-46; 2 Cor. 5:10, 11; 2 Tim. 4:1; Rev. 20:12f.

VI. *For What Will All Men Be Judged?*

1. Secret things. (Eccl. 12:13-14.)
2. Words. (Matt. 12:36-37.)
3. Deed done in the body. (2 Cor. 5:10.)
4. Fruits of deeds. (Jer. 17:10.)

VII. *Purpose of Judgment.*

Not a trial. Eccl. 12:13-14; John 5:28; Rom. 2:5-6. (After trial judge often delays to render decision—the judgment.)

*Conclusion:* (1) To emphasize lesson: Matt. 25:13, 46; Rev. 20:12-15; 23:8. (2) "Watch and pray" lest we be unprepared. 1 Samuel 6:20; Mark 13:37. We are stewards. Be ready, (3) All sinners unprepared for judgment. Believe, repent, be baptized. "Trust and obey."

## RECONCILIATION

## 2 Corinthians 5:17-18

*Introduction:* (1) "Reconciliation." Then man, not God needs it. Note Romans 5:10; text; Col. 1:21. Prayer system error. (2) Man's ways to be a variance here. God altogether in right, man wholly wrong. Many passages show man to be a sinner. (3) "Reconciliation" should be studied by all.



*Discussion*I. *Before Reconciliation.* Obstacles to be removed.

1. Sin. Isa. 59:2; Rom. 8:3; 2 Cor. 5:21.
2. Power of Satan. Heb. 2:14; 2 Tim. 1:10; 1 John 3:8.
3. The law. No mercy. Jer. 31:31-34; Hosea 2:11; Amos 8:2-9; Rom. 5:21-24; Eph. 2:14-16; Col. 2:14; Gal. 3:11-24; Heb. 7:12; 8:13; Cf. 9:16-17.

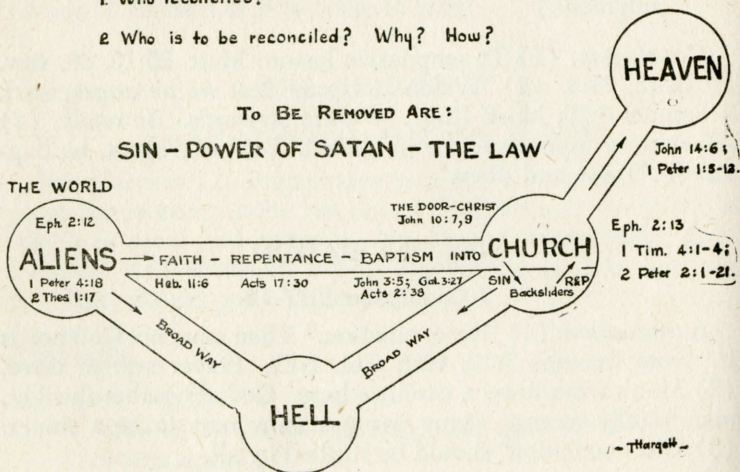
II. *Christ Only Can Reconcile . . . Meditate.* 1 John 2:1-2.

1. No angel can. Knows not man's temptations, needs. No man can. Knows no more than others God's will and power. Can not plead or propitiate.
2. Christ shed blood to reconcile. Matt. 26:28; Heb. 9:24f.
3. Holy Spirit sent to give "word of reconciliation" to man. John 14:26; 16:23; Acts 1:4-8; 2:1f. (This word must be preached by human agency. True in every case of conversion even in miraculous age.)

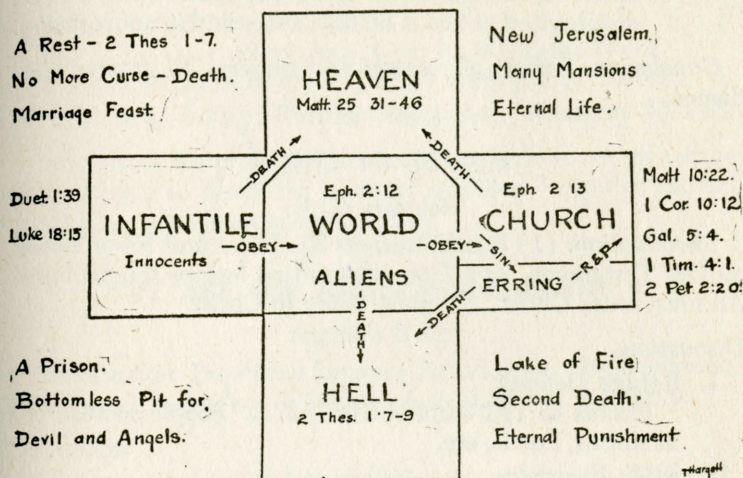
III. *Further Study of Chart.***RECONCILIATION**

1. Who reconciles?

2. Who is to be reconciled? Why? How?



## FIVE STATES OF MANKIND

*Explanation of the Chart.*

1. These five rectangles represent only the states in time and eternity, not intermediate hades.
2. No passage show from "Infantile" into "Hell" as a baby can not go to hell. No passage from world into "heaven." (Eph. 2:12; 2 Thes. 1:7-9.)
3. In all other passages either "death" or "obey" is put as doorway. (Rev. 14:13; Rom. 6:16-17.)
4. "Sin" obeyed takes one into "World"; "Sin" makes a backslider, repentance and prayer makes faithful, restores one.
5. If "erring" do not repent and pray there is no forgiveness and scriptures on right of chart show eternally lost. If such do obey and are thus restored, they are in fellowship.
6. One thus lost from among erring is a lost child—not a lost alien. Emphasize these scriptures.



7. A child physically born into family is always a child even though disinherited. One "born of water and Spirit" is always God's child until death but will be disinherited at last if he falls away and is not restored.

*Conclusion:* Exhort all—saints and sinners—to greater obedience.

## REFUGE IN CHRIST

Hebrews 6:18

*Introduction:* (1) Read Numbers 35. Important lesson based on Old Testament. (2) Two outstanding lessons taught here: All must enter Christ. All must abide in Christ.

### Discussion

#### I. *Refuge Defined.*

Psalms 45:1; 1 Samuel 24:1f; 27:1. People seek safety in storms, floods, etc.

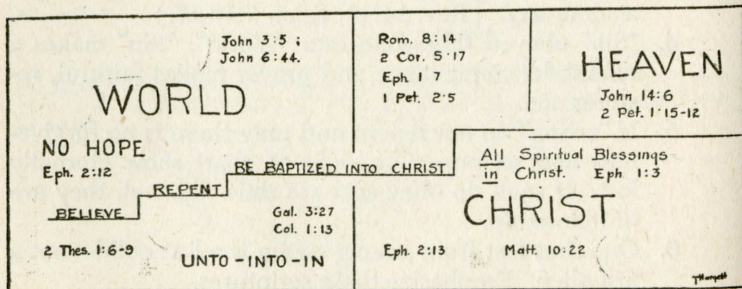
#### II. *Bible Examples.*

Genesis 7:1f; Matt. 2:13-25.

#### III. *Why Seek Refuge in Christ?*

1. For remission of sins under Old Testament. Rom. 3:21f.

## REFUGE IN CHRIST



2. For remission of sins under New Testament. In Christ. John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Ephesians 1:3, 7.
3. Must abide in Christ to enter heaven. Matt. 10:22; John 15:1-8; Rev. 14:13.
  - (1) Lot's wife failed. Gen. 19:17f; Luke 17:32.
  - (2) Rahab obeyed. Joshua 2:19; James 2:25-26.

#### IV. *Cities of Refuge Further Illustrated.* Numbers 35:1-28.

*Conclusion:* Emphasize that man must abide in city of refuge or be subject to death by "avenger of blood." Apply. Exhort to complete obedience to end of life.

### "YE ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH"

Matthew 5:13

*Introduction:* Important because Jesus said it. Soul's interest. Fine figure: metaphor. Companion to "Light of the World."

#### *Discussion*

- I. *Properties and Value of Salt.*
  1. Literal. Abundant. Sources. Two elements if pure. Preserves and seasons when "strikes in."
  2. Spiritual. Christians not abundant as ought to be. Become by obeying gospel. Two elements: Human and divine. Save world if contact aright.
  3. Need to "Go" and "Send." Gospel must strike in.
- II. *Bible Examples.*
  1. Persons not salt. Avoid influence. Rom. 15:4.
    - (1) Lot's wife. Gen. 19; Lk. 17:32. Why?
    - (2) Nadab and Abihu. Lev. 10:1-2; Cf. Heb. 2:2-3.
    - (3) Ananias and Sapphira. Acts 5:1f.
  2. These persons salt. "Whose faith follow."
    - (1) Abraham. Gen. 18:16f; James 2:21.
    - (2) Joseph. Gen. 37:1f; 50:20.
    - (3) Jewish maiden. 2 Kings 5:1f; Cf. Mk. 5:19.
 (Other examples may be added.)
- III. *Danger of Losing Salt.* 2 Peter 2:20.
  1. "Valley of Salt" near Dead Sea with rock salt. Salt



exposed to weather still has appearance but loses all savor and taste. So with Christians.

2. Jesus says only fit to be cast under foot.

3. Many warnings against losing our saltiness. Watch!

*Conclusion:* Great honor to be child of God. 1 John 3:1-3. Ruth. We cast out if lose salt. Church to withdraw. 2 Thess. 3:6. Come to Jesus, become salt. Renew service is about to lose salt.

(Sodium in test tube with hydrochloric acid liberates hydrogen and forms NaCl (Salt). God's word, teaching and power of Holy Spirit in heart freed from evil and spiritual salt is the residue.)

## PREPARING LEADERS FOR THE CHURCH

2 Timothy 2:2

*Introduction:* (1) All gatherings and workers have leaders. (2) Church must prepare leaders if work God ordained is done.

### *Discussion*

#### I. *Converted Men to Lead.*

Christians only used. Cf. Numbers 1:51; 18:7; Dan. 2:44

#### II. *Elementary Education Necessary.*

Ability to read, write and talk with some ease.

#### III. *Knowledge of the Bible.*

This plus training and practice in use. Hosea 4:6.

1. Teaching begins at home. Deut. 4:6-9; Prov. 22:6; Eph. 6:1-4.

2. Class work under competent Christian teachers.

(1) Lord's Day Bible classes as work of the church.

(2) Church should have such classes daily.

(3) Daily Bible classes in Christian schools.

3. Actual practice (teaching) under elders' care.

(1) Reading, leading prayers, songs, at Lord's table, thanks for emblems, short talks, benedictions.

- (2) Special courses in teachers' training. This is as necessary as training to lead songs.
- (3) Training in company with older members in house-to-house visiting, to see sick, teach the Bible to sinners and erring Christians; visiting hospitals with flowers, tracts, etc.

*Conclusion:* Exhort elders and others to be more diligent in training leaders. Invite members to assist; invite sinners to obey the gospel.

## "IF I AM LOST"

Luke 19:10

*Introduction:* (1) Life is uncertain, death is sure. Prepare for eternity. (2) Notes Amos 4:12 and context. Death serious to you? Ready? (3) The theme "If I Am Lost," worthy of our best consideration.

*Discussion:* If I Am Lost. (Hosea 4:6.)

- I. *I Will Not Be Alone.* Pity is so many lost.
  1. None lives or dies to himself. (Rom. 14:7.)
    - (1) Eve not alone in garden. Gen. 3:1; Matt. 7:13-14.
    - (2) Rich man desired brothers not to be with him. Lk. 16:19.
    - (3) If lead others, likely some of best loved ones.
  2. "If no one should be at the beautiful gate," etc.
- II. *I Will Be Lost Forever.* Matt. 25:46.
  1. Hell is eternal. 2 Thes. 2:7-9.
  2. No chance after death. Doctrine of purgatory false. Lk. 16:19-31.
  3. "Torment" rather than songs of joy, peace, comfort. 2 Pet. 2:7f.
- III. *I Will Suffer Double Loss.* Lose joy and suffer anguish.
  1. Will lose: joy, rest, peace, associates, God, Christ, saved of all ages. Cf. Matt. 8:11-12.
  2. Will suffer: misery, despair, wailing, darkness.
  3. This loss is irreparable and the suffering eternal.



IV. *It will Be My Fault.* These do not desire it.

1. God. John 3:16; 2 Peter 3:9.
2. Christ. Matt. 20:28; Titus 2:14; Heb. 2:9; 1 John 2:1f.
3. Holy Spirit. He is grieved at our sins. Rev. 22:17.
4. Angels in heaven. Luke 15:10.
5. Church, best people on earth. 1 Tim. 3:15; Rev. 22:17.
6. The lost themselves. Luke 16:19.
7. I alone am responsible for being lost. "Whosoever will."

*Conclusion:* "How, Oh, how are you living today?" Think seriously. Christ left heaven to live on earth, suffer, die to save all. Heed His invitation.

## PARABLE OF THE SOWER

Luke 8:4-15; Matthew 13:1, 18-23; Mark 4:1-9, 14-20

*Introduction:* (1) Figures of speech often used by Jesus. Parable here easily understood. Parable vs. fable. (2) Four principal classes of soil. Six classes of hearers. Seven necessities for crop: soil, preparation, seed, growing, cultivating, harvesting, agent employed.

### *Discussion*

#### I. *Soil Preparation.*

Preparation needed in all things. Heart is soil. Lk. 8:15; Acts 17:11; Heb. 4:7. Hard soils need sunshine and rain, love and goodness. Uprooting of weeds, stumps. Matt. 15:13; 2 Cor. 10:5. Burn or steam seed beds. Matt. 5:8; Col. 3:1f. Reason. Decision of heart. Dan. 1:8; Heb. 11:24-26.

#### II. *Selection of Seed.*

We reap what we sow, therefore, important. Seed is word of God. Lk. 8:11. Good seed needed. Government spends much to provide. Necessary as is good blood. Word of God as necessary as blood of Christ.

Germ of life in seed. John 6:63; Heb. 4:12.  
Succession in seed, not sower. Gen. 1:1-13.

Crop like seed. Gal. 6:7. Mixed seed, illustrate. "One Lord," "One God," "One Spirit," "One Body"—the church.

### III. *Sowing the Seed.*

"Preach the word." Cf. Eccl. 11:6.

Christ. Matt. 13:37. Apostles. (See Great Commission.)

All Christians, Matt. 28:19; Acts 8:4; 2 Timothy 2:2.

Only human beings sow now. All conversions prove this.

*Conclusion:* Need to use care to avoid failure in three unfruitful soils. Kill out weeds, prepare well, cultivate thoroughly. Yield three classes. Which are we?

## "BE SURE YOUR SIN WILL FIND YOU OUT"

Numbers 32:23

*Introduction:* (1) Importance of contracts. Eccl. 5:4-5; Gal. 3:15. Divorce breaks solemn contract (2) Sin universal. Eccl. 7:20; 1 John 1:8. Results terrible if only in this life affected but eternity is involved. (3) All Bible except Genesis 1 and 2 concerns sin. Sin will not be destroyed until the end. 1 Cor. 15:23f. So baneful a monster needs careful study.

### *Discussion*

#### I. *What Is Sin?*

James 1:13f; 4:17; 1 John 3:4.

#### II. *The Origin of Sin.*

Genesis 3:1f; John 8:44.

#### III. *Classes of Sin.*

1. Open, 1 Tim. 5:24; Secret, Eccl. 12:13.

2. Personal, Acts 5:1f; Congregational, 1 Cor. 5:1f.

3. Omission, Heb. 2:2-3; Commission, 2 John 9-11.

4. Weakness, Matt. 26:41f; Ignorance; 1 Tim. 1:15; Wilfulness, Heb. 10:25.

#### IV. *Examples Illustrating Text.*

1. Adam and Eve in Eden. Gen. 3:1f; Rom. 5:12f.

2. Jacob and Esau. Gen. 25:27f; 27:18f; 31:11f.

3. Achan. Joshua 7:1f; Prov. 28:13 applied.



4. Haman and Sons. Esther 7:1-10; Cf. Gen. 12:3a.
5. David vs. Uriah. 2 Sam. 11:1f. Emphasize text.
6. Solomon's evil acts. 1 Kings 11:1f; 2 Kings 17:5.
7. Ananias and Sapphira. Acts 5:1f; Rev. 21:8.  
(Select examples which time permits.)

*Conclusion:* Violation of any law brings its punishment. Come to Savior before sin finds you out.

## DEVICES OF SATAN

### 2 Corinthians 2:11

*Introduction:* (1) Many names for Satan, each significant. (2) Matt. 7:15; John 12:30; 2 Cor. 11:1-3; Eph. 2:2; 6:11 all describe arch enemy of God and man.

### *Discussion*

#### I. *Some of Satan's Devices.*

1. Tempts man to do evil. Gen. 3:1f; Matt. 4:3f; James 1:12f.
2. Deceives with lies. Gen. 3:1f; 2 Chron. 18; Matt. 7:15; 15:1; John 8:44; Acts 5:3f.
3. Murders. Gen. 4:1f; John 8:44; 1 John 3:12f.
4. Adversary to God and Man. Zech. 3:1; Job 1:9f; 2:1f; Eph. 6:11; 1 Peter 5:8-9.
5. Causes wars. Rev. 12:7; 13:7. So does he yet.
6. Wrests and corrupts God's word. Pretends that it contradicts. Illustrate a few, Matt. 4:5, 6; 2 Peter 3:16.
7. Hinders man's salvation when possible. Lk. 8:12; 11:52; Acts 13:6; 2 Cor. 4:4.

#### II. *Christian's Duty Toward Satan.*

1. Resist him. Eph. 6:11; 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8-9.
2. Watch and avoid his snares and traps. 1 Tim. 3:7; 2 Tim. 2:26. "Sin is a monster of such frightful mien, that to be hated needs but to be seen."
3. If overtaken by his snares, flee to Christ for refuge and deliverance. Acts 8:22; James 5:16.

*Conclusion:* (1) Christ came to destroy Satan and his works. Heb. 2:14; 1 John 3:8. (2) God is author of all good, Satan of all evil. Beware of his many devices. Num. 32:23; Rom. 6:23. (3) Lest fate of Satan and his followers befall you (Matt. 25:46; Rev. 20:10), "Flee from wrath to come." Obey the gospel of the Lord.

## MUST

Luke 24:44

*Introduction:* (1) Define "must." Denotes duty, necessity. (2) Examples of meaning: Deut. 31:14; Ezra 10:12; Mark 9:11.

### Discussion

- I. *Uses of "Must" in Both Testaments.* Deut. 8:3; Matt. 4:4.
  1. Nazarite "must" do after law of separation. Num. 6:21.
  2. Balaam said, "All Jehovah speaketh, that I must do." Num. 22:26.
  3. "Must be born of water and the Spirit." John 3:5.
  4. "Must worship in Spirit and truth." John 4:24.
  5. "Must work the work of him that sent me." John 9:4.
  6. Only name wherein must be saved. Acts 4:12.
  7. What thou "must do." Acts 9:6; 22:16.
  8. "Must believe that God is." Heb. 11:6.
  9. "Servant must not strive." 2 Tim. 2:24.
  10. "Must all be manifest before judgment seat." 2 Cor. 5:10.
  11. "Must be death of testator." Heb. 9:16.
- II. *"Must" in Qualifications of Elders.* Deut. 8:3.
  1. All agree "must" in above.
  2. "Must" in 1 Timothy 3:2-7. Same Spirit said this.
  3. "Must" in Titus 2:7, 11. Believe, teach it.

*Conclusion:* (1) Urge to take Bible as it reads, add not, take not away. (2) Take "must" out of Acts 9:6; 22:16; Heb. 9:16 as well as 1 Timothy 3:2-7 and Titus 1:7-11. Beware!



## CHRISTIAN GIVING

Acts 20:35

*Introduction:* (1) Important. Deut. 8:3, Acts 20:20, 27. "Fellowship" and "contribution" mean same sometimes. Acts 2:42; Rom. 15:26. (2) Have right purpose for preaching this. No true preacher omits baptism as faith test. Any tests for Christians? 1 John 5:3, James 2:14-26; Col. 3:17. Lord's supper touch hearts with suffering of the Lord. Other tests. Will we be guiltless if we neglect giving? Prov. 3:9. (3) Since people must be properly taught if they give aright, we are stewards (1 Cor. 4:1-2; 6:19-20), we must not fail to do and teach.

*Discussion*

- I. *Christ's Kingdom Must Be First.* Matt. 6:33; 8:21.
  1. Reasons for making money.
    - (1) Self-support. Acts 20:33; 2 Thess. 3:7f; 1 Tim. 5:8f; Titus 3:14.
    - (2) Help poor. Lev. 19:9; Mk. 14:7; Eph. 4:28.
    - (3) Support gospel. 1 Cor. 9:9f; Phil. 1:5; 4:10-20.
- II. *Principles Governing Giving.*
  1. Willing mind. Ex. 25:12; 2 Cor. 8:12; 9:7.
  2. Sacrifice. Not "chip in." 2 Sam. 24:22f; Mk. 12:41f. Does not impoverish. Reap as sow. Mal. 3:10.
  3. All to give. 1 Cor. 16:1-2; Cf. Ex. 34:20; Deut. 16:16f. "Have to give?" Ask, "Have to sleep, eat?"
- III. *The Church Collection.*
  1. Why give? God needs not but we.
    - (1) Command. 1 John 5:3.
    - (2) Blesses giver, Phil. 4:17.
    - (3) Reap as sow. 2 Cor. 9:5-9.
  2. How collect church funds?
    - (1) Rom. 15:4; 2 Kings 12:4-9; 2 Chron. 31:11.
    - (2) Cf. John 12:6; Mark 12:41-42 suggest collection.
    - (3) 1 Cor. 16:1-2 gives positive instruction.

## 3. How use collection? Col. 3:17.

(1) For poor. Acts 11:29-30; Rom. 15:25; 1 Cor. 16:1-2.

(2) Spread gospel. Matt. 6:33; Phil. 1:5; 4:10.

(3) No other use taught in New Testament. Never divert a collection from specific purpose for which it was contributed. Have regular treasurer's report. (Note the ten points in these: 1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 9:6, 7; Rom. 12:8; 2 Cor. 8:9-12. Give ourselves first.)

## FOOLISHNESS AND WEAKNESS OF GOD

1 Corinthians 1:25

*Introduction:* (1) Brief description and history of Corinth. (2) World divided into two great classes: Those who perish and those who are saved. (3) The former consider God's way and revelation foolish and weak; the latter, "Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God." Let us study to determine our status.

*Discussion*I. *Basis on Which the Gospel Rests.*

1. Not logic, man's wisdom. 1 Cor. 2:11-13; 3:18.
2. Not "blind faith" but faith working through a true love. No, "Cannot see" but believe. 2 Cor. 5:7.
3. We follow this in daily life. Can not see how the grain germinates and grows in soil; how some food makes bone, blood, flesh. None of this seen by five senses. "Be not faithless, but believing."

II. *Lord's Work Done by Church Without Human Societies.*

1. Dorcas. Acts 9:36f. (Not member of sewing club.)
2. Paul and Silas et al belonged to no society. Acts 13.
3. David's rejection of Saul's armor, 1 Sam. 17; 2 Cor. 11:2f; Eph. 3:9f. Church all that is needed.

III. *Examples Further Illustrating Text.*

1. Taking Jericho. Joshua 6. By faith, when?
2. Gideon vs. Midianites. Judges 6 and 7. Plan wise?



3. Fiery serpents, "Look and live." Num. 21:1-6.
4. Naaman cured of leprosy. 2 Kings 5. See the point?
5. Blind man healed by washing eyes. John 9.
6. Baptism saves. Mk. 16:15f; Acts 2:38; 1 Peter 3:21.
7. Lord's Supper as monument. Silly to the world.

*Conclusion:* (1) "Obedience of faith." Rom. 1:5; 16:26. Necessary. James 2:24. (2) Requires hearing, believing, repenting, confession, being buried in baptism into Christ. (Rom. 6:1-17; Gal. 3:27.)

## PREPARATION TO MEET GOD

Amos 4:12

*Introduction:* (1) Nothing worth doing, well done and acceptable to God without preparation. (2) Preparation necessary in all life's efforts. John 14:23; John 14:1-6.

### *Discussion*

#### I. *Why Prepare?* 1 Peter 3:15.

1. Meeting God inevitable. Rom. 14:10-12.
2. Good deeds alone not save. Study Acts 10:1-6; Eph. 2:8, 9; Col. 3:17.
3. Man without preparation unprepared for this meeting. Matt. 5:8; John 3:5.
  - (1) No happiness without mutual agreement.
  - (2) Heaven prepared place for prepared people. John 14:1-6.
4. Tests for entering heaven rigid, exacting. Matt. 7:13-14; Eph. 5:27; 1 Peter 4:18; Rev. 21:27.

#### II. *How Prepare?* 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3.

1. Hear. Acts 10:33.
2. Believe. Acts 16:31; Heb. 11:6.
3. Repent. Lk. 13:3; Acts 2:38; 8:37.
4. Confess Christ. Matt. 10:32; Acts 8:37.
5. Be baptized. Mk. 16:15-16; Acts 2:38.
6. Add Christian graces. 2 Peter 1:5-8.
7. Be faithful to death. Matt. 10:22.

III. *When Prepare?* 2 Cor. 6:1-2.

1. In this life. Luke 16:19-31.
2. While have opportunity. Matt. 25:1-13.
3. In youth best time. Eccl. 12:1; figures.
4. But if youth neglected, *Now*:
  - (1) "Now is the day of salvation." 2 Cor. 6:1-2.
  - (2) "Today, if you will hear his voice." Heb. 3:15.

*Conclusion:* (1) Importance of lesson. Results eternal. (2) Greater reward is more care in preparing. Value of soul. Matt. 16:24-27.

## THE CHRISTIAN'S CALLING

Ephesians 4:1-3

*Introduction:* (1) Calling: vocation and avocation. (2) Many callings of men, one of God—divine one. Need to study this to serve God well.

*Discussion*

- I. *Important Questions.* 1 Peter 3:15.
  1. By whom called? Matt. 11:28; John 6:44; Acts 2:29.
  2. How called? 2 Thess. 2:13-14; Rom. 1:16.
    - (1) First begotten. 1 Cor. 4:15; 1 John 5:1.
    - (2) Must obey. 2 Thess. 1:7-10.
    - (3) Acts done. Believe, repent, be baptized.
  3. Nature of calling?
    - (1) High. Phil. 3:14f.
    - (2) Holy. 2 Timothy 1:9.
    - (3) Heavenly. Heb. 3:1.
- II. *Danger of Rejecting Calling.*  
Prov. 1:20; 1:33; 18:19; 1 Peter 4:17; 2 Thess. 1:7-10; Heb. 2:2-3.
- III. *Must Walk Worthy of Calling.*
  1. With all lowliness and meekness.
  2. With long suffering and forbearing.
  3. Endeavoring to keep unity of Spirit.

*Conclusion:* Exhortation to walk worthily. Invitation.



## THINGS THAT ARE EXCELLENT

Philippians 1:10

*Introduction:* (1) Two classes of things: excellent and inferior; needed and not; right and wrong. This admonition valuable. (2) Philippian church one of the best yet needed this. We, too.

*Discussion*I. *Importance of Discrimination in Our Approval.*

1. We must discriminate between objects, deeds, etc.
2. In choice the heart, fountain source, must at all times be well taught and guarded. Matt. 15:19-20.
3. Need practice, use of senses to discern good and avoid evil. Heb. 5:11-14. Age often helps in ripening thoughts and actions.

II. *Some Things That Are Excellent.*

1. Humility. Phil. 2:5-9. Leads to exaltation.
2. Courage. Joshua 1:7-9.
  - (1) Physical and moral. Soldier sometimes moral coward.
  - (2) Courage. Not fool-hardiness. Need wisdom.
  - (3) David courageous in war and in confession of sin.
3. Faithfulness unto the Lord. Change for nothing.
  - (1) Judas. Loved money, betrayed Lord.
  - (2) Paul "faithful unto death." 2 Tim. 4:6-8.
  - (3) Eternal reward only to faithful to end.
4. Profiting by reproof. Prov. 9:8; Heb. 12:6-14.
5. Zeal with knowledge. Rom. 10:1-2; Rev. 3:15-17. If all zealous in all good works, what result? "If every member of this church were just like me . . .?"
6. Kindness vs. railing. Jesus an example.
7. Christian faithful unto end of life. Matt. 10:22.

*Conclusion:* (1) How can we be active in business, many at elections, neglect home Bible study and class study? Luke 16:8. (2) Easy to find things excellent. Matt. 6:33; Heb. 10:25. (3) To accept Christ's invitation most excellent. Come.

## GOD'S SEVEN WATER TESTS

1 John 5:5-8

*Introduction:* (1) Water, like bread, necessary to life. Man said to be two-thirds water. Must drink same as plants. (2) Earth three-fourths covered by water. Gen. 1:2f. Water and fire both save and destroy. Both very necessary. We show no prejudice but accept these. (3) Here are seven tests at water. Divine tests. Note Deut. 23:3-4; 2 Cor. 2:14f.

I. *The Flood.*

Genesis 6 and 7. Corruption. Decree. Noah and family saved by water in the ark.

II. *The Red Sea.*

Exodus 14. The crossing. Israel *thus* and *then*. V. 30. Others destroyed. Water saved and destroyed.

III. *Gideon's Drinking Test.*

Judges 7. Brief study of facts and lesson to us.

IV. *Naaman's Cure.*

2 Kings 5. "Go wash . . . and thou shalt be clean." God honored prophet's word, blessed Naaman only at end of obedience.

V. *Blind Man at Siloam.*

John 9. Had washed face many times. Different now. All these physical benefits none deny.

VI. *John's Baptism.*

John 1:28, 33. First use of water for spiritual blessings. Various quotations of scripture here.

VII. *Baptism Under Great Commission.*

1 Peter 1:21. Also for spiritual need. Different things men teach it is for: church membership, because of salvation. "Immerse" inheres in meaning as "color" in sky.

*Conclusion:* All the above God's ways. (Isaiah 55:9.) Conversions studied as time allows. Invitation "Come."



## EVIDENCE OF PARDON

Romans 8:16f; 1 John 2:3-5

*Introduction:* Much confusion and difference of judgment. True standard must be used. Must be willingness to accept God and His will in the Bible. This study planned to assist in forming correct faith.

*Discussion*

- I. *Some Bible Facts and Truths Necessary to Know.* 1 Thess. 5:21.
  1. A study of Prov. 14:12; Paul as "chief of sinners."
  2. Feeling not the proper guide. Example of Jacob.
  3. All accountable lost. Eph. 2:12-13; Rom. 3:23.
- II. *The Spirit Must Bear Witness.* Rom. 8:16.
  1. Our conversion to God from sin—becoming Christian.
    - (1) Conversion—a change in man on earth.
    - (2) Pardon—takes place in heaven; a change in mind of God. Matt. 18:1-3; John 3:5; Acts 3:19f.
    - (3) Conversion—generally means whole process.
    - (4) Change of heart may include all. Acts 2:38; Acts 3:19; Rom. 6:17; Col. 1:13; 1 Thess. 1:9.
  2. Man separated from God. Gospel needed to unite. Isa. 52:1-2. Whole relationship—faith, repentance, baptism, saved.
  3. Spirit's witness plus man's witness. (Note: "With.")
    - (1) If true, man knows he is saved. God so teaches. "Pass from death unto life." 1 John 2:3-5; 5:1-3.
    - (2) Mark 16:15-16; "Believe and turn to God." Acts 2:38; 3:19; Rom. 6:17; Gal. 3:27.
    - (3) Spirit's teaching what to do; honest hearted do so; both Spirit and man agree; all evidence needed.

*Conclusion:* Brief review of feelings, "Just so honest," etc. So many different ways taught. Emphasize Rom. 8:16 as true evidence of pardon.

## FLEE — FOLLOW — FIGHT

1 Timothy 6:6-12

*Introduction:* Gain and effects: must make some gain but need care in making and using. Watch. Mark 10:23f. Discuss briefly misuse of all these "F's."

*Discussion*

- I. *Flee.* From sin and wrath to come. Only safety.
  1. Love of money under three figures here.
    - (1) Drowning. Urge to get rich dangerous. Wrong ways.
    - (2) Trapping. Catching wild game; Satan's devices.
    - (3) Taking root. Tap root; love even leads to war.
  2. Youthful lusts—drink, gambling, adultery, etc.
  3. Idolatry. "Covetousness." 1 Cor. 10:10f.
- II. *Follow.* Ex. 23:2; John 21:22; Rom. 14:19; 1 Cor. 11:1.
  1. Righteousness. Be just toward God and man. Examples.
  2. Godliness. Like God; important grace. 2 Pet. 1:6-7.
  3. Faith. Root of righteousness and godliness.
  4. Love. Motive power of faith. 1 Cor. 13:1-13.
  5. Patience. Necessary to faithfulness. Cultivate.
  6. Meekness. Define. Opposers of themselves need.
  7. Forgiveness. Else none for self. Matt. 6:14-15.
- III. *Fight.* "Sword of the Spirit" only for Christians.
  1. Enemy three-fold:
    - (1) The world. James 4:4; 2 John 2:15-17.
    - (2) The flesh. Rom. 7:21; Gal. 10:17.
    - (3) The devil. 1 Peter 5:8-9; James 4:7.
  2. "Put on the whole armor." Eph. 6:10-17. Needed.
  3. Object of fight: gain eternal life. Matt. 25:34-36.
    - (1) Promise here. 1 John 2:25. (2) Reality there.

*Conclusion:* Flee from and fight against sin and its influences. Follow Christ to escape eternal wrath to come. "Sin is a monster of such frightful mein," etc. Fight the good fight



of faith with sword of God believed and obeyed in loving and teaching others. Accept invitation of Christ that you may "Flee, follow, fight" for the truth and right here and go to heaven at last.

## A WORTHY WOMAN

Proverbs 31:10-31

*Introduction:* Much said of women good and bad. May be best this side of heaven or worst this side of perdition. God's description must be true; man errs in judgment. Study God's description:

### *Discussion*

- I. *A Rare Jewel.* V. 10. Value not in material wealth. Diamond in gravel pit illustrates how hard to find.
- II. *Husband's Stay and Confidence.* Vs. 11-12. True to marriage vows and he trusts with purse—yea, everything!
- III. *She Is Industrious.* Vs. 13-19, 24, 25, 27. Queen of the home. An asset rather than a liability.
- IV. *She Is Generous.* Vs. 20-22. Sympathy the law of her life—industry and generosity go hand in hand.
- V. *She Honors Her Husband.* Vs. 23. Her character, respect and knowledge of husband made known by it. She thus fills her own place. 1 Cor. 14: 34f; 1 Tim. 2:12; Titus 2:5.
- VI. *Her Strength a Blessing.* V. 26. Cf. Proverbs 25:11; Eph. 4:29; Col. 4:6; 1 Peter 3:1-6.
- VII. *She Has Her Husband's Praise.* Vs. 28-29. This is a blessing to be coveted and sought after. Acts 9:39; Rev. 14:13.

*Conclusion:* Emphasize great truths in verses 30-31. Great need for such lessons today.

(This may be used as a funeral talk with proper adjustment to any particular Christian woman's character.)

## "THE RIGHTEOUS IS SCARCELY SAVED"

1 Peter 4:18

*Introduction:* (1) Solemn words should startle and move to obedience "the ungodly and the sinner" and warn all righteous. (2) Put God in all plans as partner; your best interest. 1 Tim. 4:8; 1 Peter 5:7-9; James 4:13-15. Satan wants men to feel robbed if they give up the world. Pleasures as deceitful as are riches. (3) Jesus gave best and first. Prov. 3:9; Rom. 15:4. This study a rebuke and an exhortation to a better life.

*Discussion*

I. "Ye Are Not Your Own." 1 Cor. 6:19-20; 7:23.

1. Time, talent, means all God's. How much to Him?
2. Matt. 6:33 direct command as Mk. 16:15-16.
3. God. His work and worship first. Matt. 8:19-22; John 9:4; Acts 4:19; 5:29; Heb. 10:25-26.
  - (1) Rush worship for pleasure, school closings, etc.?
  - (2) Attend at 11 on Lord's Days only? Why so seldom?
  - (3) Friends keep away? No true friend would do so.

II. *Consecration and Steadfastness Required.* Text.

1. "Righteous scarcely saved." Prov. 18:9; Heb. 2:2-3.
2. Change homes, neglect to find congregation, lost.
3. Both firmness and continuance necessary. See Prov. 24:10; 25:26f; (Quit because others do wrong?) Heb. 10:25. Could not have custom to forsake if did not have custom to meet. Would your business prosper if conducted as you do church work? Lk. 16:8.

III. *Other Illustrative Examples.*

1. Lot's wife missed lesson as she did not make full escape. Gen. 19. She started, failed.
2. Daniel and Hebrew children barely escaped. Dan. 3 and 6; Jehoshaphat barely lived. 2 Chron. 18:31.
3. David showed faith and trust. 2 Samuel 12:20f.

*Conclusion:* Restate text. 1 Cor. 6:19-20; 7:23. Exhort to greater diligence. Ezekiel 18:24.



## FOLLOW THINGS THAT MAKE FOR PEACE

Romans 14:9

*Introduction:* (1) Christ the prince of peace vs. Satan and war lords. (2) Christ to destroy Satan and works. 1 John 3:8. (3) Christ's life and teaching influence men to put away everything that disturbs peace, destroys unity and creates division.

*Discussion*I. *God Teaches Unity Among His Children.* Text.

1. Family represents church, God's family. 1 Tim. 3:15. Sin destroys peace. Separate from sin only division taught by Christ. Matt. 10:34f.
2. God required Jews to be separate, to keep peace.
  - (1) By marriage. Ex. 23:31f; 34:12; Deut. 7:3.
  - (2) Solomon set bad example. Seeds of division. 1 Kings 11.
  - (3) New Testament teaches to keep peace. 1 Cor. 1:10; denominations destroy peace, create division.
3. Tabernacle illustrates unity. Type of church. Ex. 26:6, 11.

II. *Whatever Disturbs Peace Is Wrong.*

1. Psalms 133:1; Prov. 6:19; Rom. 14:19-21; 1 Cor. 8; 10:27-32.
2. God is a God of peace. 1 Cor. 14:33.
3. Use of the Lord's Day to transact business when meeting for worship helps to destroy sacredness of hour and tends toward breaking peace and unity. 1 John 5:3.

III. *Those Responsible for Keeping Peace.*

1. Each member of the church. 1 Cor. 12:26.
2. Elders. Must teach this lesson. Acts 20:28. Keeps wolves away.

3. Preachers. Acts 20:20, 27. Responsible for breaking much of peace.

*Conclusion:* Christ died to save. Make peace with God by obedience. Man must choose to obey or to reject.

## THINGS THAT ARE ABOMINATION UNTO GOD

Proverbs 6:16-19; Luke 16:15

*Introduction:* (1) Define "abomination." ("1. Extreme disgust and hatred, abhorrence, destestation, loathing.") (2) God sees not as man sees. 1 Samuel 16:7; Isa. 55:8-9.

### *Discussion*

#### I. A Partial List of Abominations to God.

1. Certain foods under Moses. Lev. 11:10-13.
2. Changing men's and women's garments. Deut. 22:5.
3. Doing unrighteousness:
  - (1) "False balances" and "divers weights." Prov. 11:1; 20:23; Cf. 2 Cor. 8:21.
  - (2) Lying lips. Prov. 17:22; Eph. 4:23.
  - (3) Justify wicked or condemn righteous. Prov. 17:15.
4. Blemished sacrifices. Deut. 17:1f; Rom. 12:1-2.
5. Sacrifices of the wicked. Prov. 21:27; 28:9.
6. Pleasing men rather than God. Luke 16:14f; Titus 1:16.
7. The seven mentioned in the text. Prov. 6:16-19. Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that deviseth wicked purposes, feet that are swift in running into mischief, a false witness that uttereth lies, and he that soweth discord among the brethren.

*Conclusion:* Turn from these if you would be saved at last. Rev. 18:27. Exhort to know right, then do it. James 4:17.



## THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH—ITS IDENTITY

Matthew 16:18

*Introduction:* (1) Text is three-fold in meaning: "Will build" is future. Cf. Dan. 2:44; "I will go." "My church," says Christ. Acts 20:28; Romans 16:16. Church, not churches. John 10:16; Eph. 2:16; 4:4. In plural local congregations meant. Rev. 1:4. (2) Letters later making up New Testament sent to churches, hence church older than New Testament. Need to indoctrinate all here. (3) Since we find over 250 bodies claiming to be this New Testament church, we need to study how to identify it. In this lesson we study how to identify and use my automobile as an illustration.

*Discussion*

- I. *Name.* Important. Many not in New Testament. God created; His. Christ bought, built; His. (Car V8 Ford.)
- II. *Builder—Foundation—Head.* Christ all these. Matt. 16:18; 1 Cor. 3:11; Eph. 1:22-23. (Ford made car.)
- III. *Establishment or Building Shows Its Age.* Dan. 2:44; Mk. 9:1; Acts 1:4-8; 2:1-47; A.D. 30. Jerusalem the place. Isa. 28:16; Luke 24:47-50; Acts 1:12; 2:1. All things began by miracle then continue by law. 1 Cor. 12:28. Before Pentecost: no Spirit, no Head, no Foundation, no King, no Law, Jews only subjects. (Try: V8, 1941.)
- IV. *Discipline the Bible Only.* (Only church using no other.) John 20:30-31; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3; Rev. 22:18-19. "Blessed Bible, how I love it." (Ford price list.)
- V. *Its Worship.* John 4:23-24; Acts 2:42; 1 Cor. 16:1-2. "The day," first day of week. Acts 20:7; Items: Acts 2:42; 1 Cor. 16:1-2. (Deluxe Coupe.)
- VI. *Organization.* Divine, very simple.
  1. It's teachers: Inspired (temporary); Uninspired—elders, deacons, evangelists, members.

2. Its mission: edify self, preach to the world, help the poor. 1 Cor. 14:4, 26; Eph. 4:16-17; Matt. 28:18-20; Gal. 2:10.
3. Each congregation independent, complete in itself. May cooperate with others if independence is kept. (Cayuga blue.)

VII. *Conditions of Membership.* John 3:5; Conversions in Acts 2, 8, 9, 10, 16. (License 4-5879.)

*Conclusion:* Impress task of finding car among many. Now the church. John 5:39; Acts 17:11. God made all fruit to bear after its kind.

## "SEEK YE FIRST THE KINGDOM"

Matthew 6:33

*Introduction:* (1) Man's best interest calls for God in his plans. Satan urges that we are robbed if we "love not the world." Change heart and we easily give up all wrong. Satan would deceive. (2) Live, then teach others. Text direct command to put kingdom first.

### *Discussion*

#### I. *Old Testament Teaching on This Subject.*

1. First of "ten commandments" requires God first.
2. Micaiah vs. Ahab so teaches. 2 Chron. 18:12f.
3. Widow of Zarephath did this. 1 Kings 17:8-16.

#### II. *New Testament Illustrations of Text.*

1. Matthew 8:18-12; 10:34-39; Mk. 10:29-31; Luke 9:57f.
2. Mark 5:18f. (Two girls offered school. One accepted not knowing whether she could attend worship. Other refused because told would have to miss worship occasionally. Which followed Jesus as per text?)
3. Heart where treasures are. Matt. 6:21f. Akin girl.\*

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\* This girl refused to see boy friend on Sunday night and miss services though present on Sunday morning at 11 o'clock. W. R. Puckett, in financial straits, paid all hands full wages to quit work to hear me preach as often as desired. Two hours paid for daily.



### III. *Further Illustrative Example.* Cf. Luke 10:38-42.

1. Negative: Failure to do duty, excuses offered.
  - (1) Adam and Eve. Gen. 3:1f; Orpah, Ruth 1.
  - (2) Cain. Gen. 4:1f; 1 John 3:12f.
  - (3) Nadab and Abihu, Lev. 10:1-2.
2. Positive, Obedient, "Whose faith follow."
  - (1) Young girl studied Bible before school lessons.
  - (2) J. A. Harding and others went to worship with one of family a corpse at home on Lord's day. So did David. 2 Samuel 12:20f. Text.

*Conclusion:* Jews required to give best and first. Shall we do less? Exhort to whole duty. Eccl. 12:13-14; Matt. 7:21; Heb. 5:8-9. Christ wants all to "Trust and obey."

## THE OBEDIENCE OF FAITH

Romans 16:26

*Introduction:* (1) Romans fullest discussion of justification by faith. Begins and ends with obedience. 1:16; 16:26. (2) Faith and "obedience of faith" differ. Latter result of former. See Rom. 10:17, James 2:17-24.

### *Discussion:*

#### I. *Two Kinds of Obedience.*

1. One of God, divine, saves soul. Matt. 7:21.
2. Other of men, human, reason and philosophy, vain.
3. Reasons for same acts differ. Infidels charitable, kind sometimes; lack essential element, faith. See 1 Sam. 15, Saul. Col. 2:8-10.

#### II. *Points of Agreement and Disagreement.*

1. Agreement.
  - (1) Blood the ground for justification.
  - (2) Faith the necessary principle.
2. Disagreement.
  - (1) Time when justified.
  - (2) Acts done in obedience.

3. God has tested man in all ages through overt acts of obedience. Faith never saves until it is expressed by overt acts. Obedience tests, faith saves.

### III. *Divine Examples Illustrating Text.*

1. Abel. Gen. 4:1f. First example of worship in faith.
2. Noah, not faith alone, worked many years. Gen. 6:1f.
3. Abraham, God's model, severely tested. When justified? When he left Sarah? Left servants? Uplifted knife.
4. Israel crossing the Red Sea. Ex. 14:30; Heb. 11:29.
5. Walls of Jericho fell by faith. When? Obeyed.
6. Sin offering by priests. Forgiveness when obeyed.
7. Some New Testament examples:
  - (1) Prayer act of faith, confess sins, forgiven.
  - (2) Repentance first fruit of faith. Obedience.
  - (3) Baptism. Rom. 6:3-4, 17. One asks, "What if killed before baptism?" I ask, "What if killed before faith or repentance?" "What if Naaman had refused to wash (dip) in Jordan?" One command not more important than another. Matt. 5:19; James 2:10. Baptism an act of faith just like Abraham's offering of Isaac; encompassing walls of Jericho; prayer.

*Conclusion:* Exhort all to obedience. Invitation.

## THE BIBLE

### 1 Thessalonians 2:13

*Introduction:* (1) Subject always new, "Never grows old."  
 (2) In this study I place it in acrostic form on blackboard for better impression. (3) Take heed to this lesson. James 4:17.

B—"Buy." "Buy the truth, sell it not." Prov. 23:23. Note also Isaiah 55:1. We buy food for body. Spiritual food more necessary. I Peter 2:1-2. We buy many unnecessary and hurtful things. 1 Cor. 7:30. Judas sold his Lord. Do we?



- I*—"Investigate" and that means "instruction." Hosea 4:6  
Col. 3:16; John 5:39; Acts 17:11. Note 2 Kings 22:1-10  
Neh. 8:1-18. "The Restoration" needed again now.
- B*—"Believe it." John 3:18; 20:27; Luke 8:12; 1 Thess. 2:13  
Taught to believe, not to doubt.
- L*—"Love it." "Blessed Bible, how I love it." John 14:23  
2 Thess. 2:11-12 shows how one is led into great danger  
Note 2 Chron. 18:4, 12, 22.
- E*—"Eternally saved or condemned by it." Acts 20:32; John  
3:5; 6:38; Matt. 25:46; 2 Thess. 1:7-9 and 1 Peter 4:18  
as warning to all.

*Conclusion:* "Continue in things thou hast learned knowing  
of whom we learned them." Paul. Read, study, practice.

## THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH—SELF-EDIFYING

Ephesians 4:16

*Introduction:* (1) Define, "edify." "Self-edifying" has idea  
of automatic. Edify and build up 22 times in A.R.V. Testa-  
ment. (2) Take care to edify, not to entertain, transact busi-  
ness, etc. "Homecomings" may easily become objectionable  
1 Cor. 5:6.

### *Discussion*

- I. *We Either Build Up or Tear Down.* 2 Cor. 10:8.
  1. Gospel power to save and build up. Rom. 1:16.
  2. Word is seed. It perpetuates church. Teach it.
  3. No neutrality. Matt. 12:30; Cf. Judges 5:23.
- II. *Christ Is Head and Has All Authority.* Eph. 1:22-23.
  1. Tabernacle type: two-fold lesson taught:
    - (1) Only blood anointed vessels used.
    - (2) Such not used for other purposes. If so, cor-  
rupted.
  2. No outside leadership in church. Self-edifying. Cf.  
Num. 1:51; 18:7; Luke 16:8. Lodges use only mem-  
bers. Cf. Ezra 4:2.

3. Christians in church always but not assembly. Eph. 3:9, 10; Col. 3:17; Titus 3:14. Text.

### III. *Two Ways to Build Up or Edify.*

1. Individually. Privately. (Men and women.) Acts 18:26; 1 Timothy 4:12; 2 Tim. 1:1-5; Titus 2:3-5.
2. Congregationally. Publicly. (Men only.) 1 Cor. 14:34f; 1 Tim. 2:12; Rev. 2:20.
  - (1) Meetings any time or place suitable. 2 Tim. 4:1-3.\*
  - (2) Lord's day worship. All participate. 1 Cor. 14:23f.
  - (3) Above plan illustrated: (a) Solomon's workmen and servants. 1 Chron. 24; 2 Chron. 8:14f. (b) Levites divided into courses. Num. 3:11; 1 Chron. 9:23f; 23:6f. (c) Divide public worship up. Many used. Text. Song leader. Reading. Prayer leader. Speaker. Leader at table. Passing emblems. Benediction. A dozen or more can be used and should be. Change up at other times.

*Conclusion:* All should show keen interest. Many helping keeps interest. None wants to be a slacker or "lording it over" God's church. Christ invites all to come for salvation.

## "YE ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD"

Matthew 5:14-16

*Introduction:* (1) Fine figure. Companion to "Salt of the Earth." Important because: Jesus said it; our soul's interest present and eternal involved. (2) Since dark and night represent sin; light and day represent righteousness. John 1:4-5; 3:19; Eph. 5:13; Thess. 5:1-8.

\* Classes Lord's day to teach the Bible are fine, women may teach when separated from other classes. A private work. We must remember this work is not part of Lord's day worship and must be kept separate as to time. This work does not meet requirements of Acts 2:42 and other references to the public assembly. Preachers, leaders, and all: take notice!



*Discussion*I. *Some Benefits of Light.*

1. Physical benefits: plants, our bodies.
2. Spiritual: Civilizes, guides into Christ, heaven.
3. Illustrate: First plow in Japan taken by McCaleb; William Johnson.\* All saved if faithful to the end.

II. *Characteristics of Light.*

## 1. Reflection:

- (1) Physical sun and moon, other planets, mirrors.
- (2) Spiritual "Sun of Righteousness," on Christians.
- (3) Only gospel some read is "Gospel According to You."

## 2. Refraction: Poor reflection, etc.

- (1) Imperfect window panes, mirrors.
- (2) Prisms that produce rainbow colors.
- (3) False teaching. 2 Peter 3:15-16.

## 3. Hindrances. 1 Cor. 8:8f; 10:27-32.

- (1) Eclipses, Aug. 31, 1932 for example. Soot on chimneys, etc.
- (2) Darkness in Egypt; at cross; dark ages.
- (3) Result if physical sun blotted out; spiritual sun blotted out.

III. *Bible Examples Good and Bad. Which are you?*

1. Not lights: Avoid; Cain, Nadab and Abihu, Ahab.
2. Bright lights: "Whose faith follow." Abraham, Jewish maiden. (2 Kings 5.) Paul, et al.
3. Disasters without light: lighthouses, railroad signals, text. Phil. 2:14-16.

*Conclusion:* Wick deep in oil for good light. Drink deep of the water of life. Titus 2:10-12. Exhortation to study word more. Psalms 119:105, 130; Col. 3:16. Accept invitation, become light by obeying gospel; renew brightness of life—shine up the chimney!

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\* This nephew had wounds that would not heal. Doctor had his mother sit so sun would shine on wounds. They healed at once.

**"LOOK THEREFORE CAREFULLY HOW YOU WALK"**

Ephesians 5:15

*Introduction:* (1) Plain, meaningful quotation. (2) If Christians in no danger of falling and being lost, this language would never have been used.

*Discussion***I. Analyze Text Word By Word.**

1. "Look."
2. "Look carefully." Accidents if we fail.
3. "Look carefully how we walk."

**II. Lesson and Its Value.** Therefore,

1. Not only this "look carefully how walk" but walk in right way.
2. Could walk in wrong way, yet "look carefully how ye walk."
  - (1) Paul an example of this. Acts 23:1.
  - (2) Apollos another. Acts 18:24.
  - (3) Many may be found today. "Watch."
3. Hence all Christians should watch:
  - (1) Thoughts, Matt. 15:11-20; Prov. 23:7.
  - (2) Words. Smutty tales. Matt. 12:34-37.
  - (3) Deeds. 1 Cor. 10:31-32; 2 Cor. 5:10-11. Cf. Matt. 10:34f. Illustrate.

*Conclusion:* Complete consecration in body, soul and spirit. Rom. 12:1-2; 1 Thess. 5:23. Would Jesus think, say, do this? Do as He would do. No other safe course. Micah 6:8.

**MIDNIGHT SCENES**

Exodus 11:4f; 12:29f

*Introduction:* (1) Darkness marked beginning of creation and of each day. (Gen. 1:2, 5, 8.) Night and darkness often represent evil. (1 John 3:19). Many great events center around midnight. Great evils, dawning of new eras. (2) Many such happenings have no real significance, yet many events done under cover of darkness: Samson took city gates away.



Judges 16:3; woman's exchange of dead child. 1 Kings 3:20. Paul preached past midnight at Troas. Acts 20:7f. (Other examples: Ruth 3:8; Psalms 119:62; Luke 11:5.) (3) Since some great Bible lessons center around midnight scenes, this theme deserves prayerful consideration.

I. *Death of First-Born in Egypt.* Ex. 11:4f.

Passover instituted, blood on door for safety. Our safety in church, God's house. Christ is the door.

II. *Feast of Belshazzar.* Daniel 5.

Important facts: unpreparedness of city; overthrow. Daniel's faithfulness and promotion. Romans 8:28.

III. *Paul and Silas in Jail at Philippi.* Acts 16.

Worshipping God under adverse conditions. Midnight, prisoners listening. Earthquake, jail opened. Jailer converted with his house

IV. *Bridgroom Came - matt. 25.*

*Conclusion:* Reaping what was sown taught in all above. Be ready for time of end not known. Watch. Mark 13:35. God's care for righteous and certain punishment of wicked clearly seen in each case mentioned.

## SCENES "EARLY IN THE MORNING"

Genesis 22:5; Mark 16:2

*Introduction:* (1) The saying, "An early start is half day's work done." In former lesson had "Midnight Scenes." (2) Joy and success depend on start, attitude of heart. Our object to turn men Godward. Eccl. 12:1.

### *Discussion*

I. *Abraham Offered Isaac Early in the Morning.*

1. Great sacrifice. Isaac willing.
2. Type of Christ. Only begotten. Obedience.
3. Test of faith. Rom. 4:3f; James 2:29f; Gal. 2 and 3.

II. *Jacob Rose Early in the Morning.* Gen. 28:18.

1. Early start on his journey. Gen. 28:1-9.

2. Covenant with God early in the morning. Gen. 28:18-22.
3. Lesson. Eccl. 12:1f; Prov. 22:6; Eph. 6:16.
- III. *Moses Rose Early in the Morning.* Ex. 24:4f.
  1. Voice gave "Ten Commandments." Miraculous. Ex. 20:18f.
  2. Covenant sealed early in Mt. Ex. 24:1-8.
  3. New covenant at Pentecost early, too. Acts 2:1-15.
- IV. *Jesus Went Early in the Morning* into
  1. Solitude for prayer. Mark 1:35.
  2. Temple to teach. Luke 21:38.
  3. Pilate's judgment hall. Matt. 27:9f.
- V. *Jesus Rose Early in the Morning of First Day of Week.*
  1. Sabbath had ceased. Mark 16:1f.
  2. Earthquake and women early. Matt. 28:1; Mk. 16:1.
  3. Jesus already raised when they came. Mark 16:9.

*Conclusion:* These lessons learned will help us in work. First fruits always God's. Prov. 3:9. Matt. 6:33.

## SOWING AND REAPING

Galatians 6:7-8

*Introduction:* (1) Time and earth limit man's acts for good or evil. Eccl. 11:3; Luke 16:19-31; John 9:4. (2) Eternity reaping time, save first-fruits. (Prov. 11:31). (3) Since opportunities many, results so great, "Sowing and Reaping" is studied in following:

### *Discussion*

#### I. *Every Person Sows in One of Two Ways.*

1. To the flesh.
  - (1) Causing discord. Gen. 13:8; Prov. 6:19.
  - (2) In iniquity and trouble. Prov. 22:8; Hosea 8:7.
  - (3) Other sowings to flesh. Gal. 5:16-21.
2. To the Spirit.
  - (1) Fruit of righteousness, in peace. James 3:18.
  - (2) Spiritual things. 1 Cor. 9:11. Teach gospel, v. 14.
  - (3) Other sowing to Spirit. Gal. 5:22f.



## II. *Only Two Kinds of Harvest, Reaping.*

1. From sowing to the flesh: Prov. 11:31.
  - (1) Corruption. Gal. 6:8.
  - (2) Wrath, etc. Mat. 25:26; Rom. 2:4; 2 Thess 1:7-8-9.
2. From sowing to the Spirit. Rom. 6:23.
  - (1) Promise of this life. 1 Tim. 4:8.
  - (2) Eternal life. Matt. 25:46; Rom. 2:7.

*Conclusion:* Since such sorrows here and punishment hereafter result from evil sowing, sowing to the flesh, and, since so great happiness on earth and such joy in heaven will be our heritage for sowing to the Spirit, we should sow to the Spirit even if weeping (Psa. 126:5). We should sow bountifully (2 Cor. 9:6) and in peace (James 3:18). The reaping is as the sowing. All needing rest from their labors should come now.

## DECEITFULNESS OF SIN.

*Introduction:* "Deceitfulness" chief idea in this verse. It implies deceitfulness greater than many thing. Figures of speech used in Bible confirm its deceitful nature: sin, snare, pit, net, serpent. It becomes us to look prayerfully, soberly into sin's deceitful nature.

### *Discussion*

#### I. *In Measureless Consequences a Wide Influence.*

1. None knows where sins will end. Gal. 6:7. Thousands affected. Rock in pond.
2. Illustrate: Adam and Eve in Eden. If had only known!
3. Solomon's reign ended in division of Israel. Seeds of strife. Prov. 6:19.

#### II. *Deceives by Similarity to Righteousness.*

1. Dark comes gradually, on before we know it. (Often sin and right shade into each other.)
2. Great apostasy. 2 Thess. 2:1-11. Jews illustrate.
3. Repeated in division in Restoration.

Deceitfulness  
of wicked  
pleasures.

III. *Deceives by Method of Approach to Men.*

1. Comes not as sin, else defeat. 2 Cor. 2:11.
2. Comes in garb of good to men. Matt. 7:15.
3. Comes in name of religion, offers help. Gets in soul destroying work. Believing it thus helpful, man tries it to full. Illustrate: questionable pleasures, habits, etc. Innovations in work and worship, fraternities, denominations.

*Conclusion:* "Beware" a necessary command here. "Watch" for Satan will deceive the "elect" if possible. The more like genuine, the easier the deception.

## MAN'S DUTY AND DESTINY

Romans 6:1-6

*Discussion:* (1) Text plainly says sin leads to death not only physical but eternal. (2) Men prone to judge by human sentiment and feeling—a very misleading standard.

*Discussion*I. *Principles of Divine Judgment.* Isa. 55:9.

1. What it is not. Not case of God's punishing men because He is greater. Illustrate Courts and juries may acquit or condemn on guilt or innocence. Both often done. John 7:24.
2. What it is. Reap as sow. Gal. 6:7.
3. Hence, Matt. 25:31-46 describes how and when final judgment given. Not sent into an eternal state of punishment arbitrarily but according to own choice in disobedience. 2 Cor. 5:10-11.

II. *Jehovah's Appeal to Man.* John 3:16.

1. Isa. 45:20-22; 2 Peter 3:9 . . . God.
2. Matt. 9:13; John 5:40 . . . Christ.
3. John 16:7; Rev. 22:17 . . . Holy Spirit.

*Conclusion:* Each man on own responsibility. Ezek. 3:16-21; Rom. 14:12. Men fix own destiny, weal or woe. God, Christ, Holy Spirit all say, "All things are ready." Rom. 5:8f. Man to hear, obey. "No other way."



## DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

John 15:8

*Introduction:* 1 Cor. 1:24. Christ the power and wisdom of God. V. 30 says, wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption. Becoming a disciple is reaching highest position in life. Disciple means learner. Eunuch good example. Acts 8:26-34.

I. *Three Fundamental Conditions of Discipleship.*

1. Knowing and abiding in truth. John 8:31-32.
2. The world's knowledge of. John 13:35. Cf. Light shining.
3. Daily cross bearing. Luke 14:25-27. Matt 10:34f; Lk. 8:7, 14. Would one rob God to pay debts or support self? Matt. 15:1.

II. *Simplicity and Oneness of Christian Discipleship.*

1. In making disciples. Matt 28:18-20.
2. All conversions carried out this plan. Note human agency in it all.
3. Work as disciples today: live, teach.

*Conclusion:* Brief review for emphasis. 1 Tim. 3:15. Apostles' travels and labors show zeal and necessity of work.

## TRIALS AND HOW TO BEAR THEM

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

*Introduction:* (1) Trials and afflictions abide. Acts 20:23; 2 Tim. 3:12. (2) Test of Christianity is bearing patiently. 1 Pet. 4:12.

*Discussion*I. *Purpose of Trials.*

1. Gives humility. 2 Cor. 12:7.
2. Proves our faith. 1 Pet. 1:6-7.
3. Perfects patience, steadfastness. Rom. 5:3; James 1:3.

II. *Christian Behavior Under Trials.*

1. Rejoicing. Matt. 5:12.

2. Praying. Acts 16:25.
3. Singing. Acts 16:25; James 5:13.
4. Working. 1 Peter 4:19; Gal. 6:7-9.

### III. *Promises to Those Who Endure.*

1. Grace to sustain. 2 Cor. 12:9.
2. Deliverance. Psalms 34:7; 2 Cor. 12:9.
3. Crown of life. 2 Tim. 4:6f; James 1:12. Eternal blessedness. Matt. 10:22; Rev. 7:13-17.

*Conclusion:* Trust God for His promises. 2 Cor. 1:20; 2 Pet. 3:9. If we have the faith of Abraham, we can. Matt. 5:10-12.

## "EXCEPT"

Acts 27:31

*Used*

*Introduction:* Study of one word, "Except." Define, Salvation from sin like life from drowning in text: conditional, not universal.

### *Discussion*

- I. "Except a Man Be Born Again." John 3:5.
- II. "Except Your Righteousness Shall Exceed." Matt. 5:20.
- III. "Except Ye Be Converted." Matt. 18:3.
- IV. "Except Ye Eat the Flesh." John 6:53.
- V. "Except a Grain of Wheat." John 12:24.
- VI. "As the Branch . . . Except." John 15:4.
- VII. "Except Ye Repent." Luke 15:3, 5.

*Conclusion:* Exhort all to obey the Lord: sinners to become Christians; Christians to be faithful to the end. Matt. 10:22.

## THE SEVEN UNITIES OF THE SPIRIT

Ephesians 4:1-4

*Introduction:* Commanded to "keep unity of the Spirit." Already had it, else could not keep it. Solemn duty. Certainly that it consists of seven points clear.



*Discussion*I. *Illustrations of This Sevenfold Unity.*

1. The spectrum.
2. The rainbow.

A single ray of light may pass through a prism and be broken into seven colors. These seven colors form the rainbow.

II. *The Seven Unities Specifically Named.*

One body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God. (One of each. As hard for Americans to believe in one body as for heathens to believe in one God.)

III. *Some of Religious World's Inconsistencies.*

1. World says as does the Bible there is taught: one Spirit, one Lord, one hope, one God.
2. But contradicts the scripture when it says also: one body, one faith, one baptism.
3. Had as well say, "Many Lords, Many Gods, Many Spirits." Why not? Bible speaks of only one of each. 1 Cor. 8:5-6; 1 John 4:1-3; 2 John 7-11.

*Conclusion:* Unity herein keeping prayer of John 17:20f. More than one will make unbelievers surely. Apply Joshua 24:14f and come to the Savior now.

## A WALK PLEASING GOD

1 Thessalonians 4:1-2

*Introduction:* (1) Important to please God, not men. Gal. 1:10; Eph. 6:6. Required to become Christians, then walk pleasing to God. (2) Christian service represented many ways; building, temple, vineyard, race, but here as a walk.

*Discussion*I. *Walk with God. Companionship.* Gen. 5:21f.

1. Nearness, communion. Luke 24:13-14; Cf. Acts 4:13. Moses got ahead of God, Peter followed "afar off."

Shall we shift the evangelization of the world to the next generation?

2. Companionship with men and books. Amos 3:3; Acts 4:13; 19:19; 1 Cor. 15:33.
3. Companionship with God. Enoch. "Closer walk with God."

## II. *Walk Before God.* In presence, to inspect. Gen. 17:1f.

1. Before mirror or friend to inspect clothes. Work inspected not for flaws but better not overlook.
2. Look into perfect law of liberty as mirror. James 1:22f. See Prov. 15:3; 1 Peter 3:8-12.
3. Other examples of walking before God.
  - (1) Job. Job 1 and 2.
  - (2) Hezekiah. Isa. 38:3.
  - (3) Paul. Acts 20:18.

## III. *Walk After God.* Follow teaching. Deut. 13:4.

1. Follow not wrong leader. Ex. 23:2-1; 1 Kings 11:1-8; Acts 5:29.
2. Many Old Testament examples. See Phil. 4:9; 1 Pet. 2:21.
3. Train young aright. Prov. 22:6; 2 Tim. 1:5; 3:15. Indoctrinate.

*Conclusion:* Every member should be a worker for the Lord every day. Note here compounds with "gressive" from "gredior," "to walk":

Transgressive—innovations and the like. 2 John 9-11.

Digressive—to turn aside as compass needle. 1 Tim. 1:6.

Retrogressive—Orpah. Ruth 1:8f; Demas. 2 Tim. 4:10.

Progressive—Growth, development. Gal. 1:14; 2 Peter 3:18.

All urged to progress. First must enter Christ. Who will come?

## SALVATION

Luke 2:20; 2 Corinthians 6:2

*Introduction:* (1) Many different kinds of salvation. Many ways taught. (2) Salvation of soul most important. One way. Matt. 7:21. (3) Jesus is Savior sent from God.



*Discussion*I. *This Salvation Suggests:*

1. Danger of being lost by neglect. Heb. 2:1-4.
2. Deliverance by the Lord. Heb. 2:9.
3. Necessity of man's choice. Deut. 30:19; Matt. 11:2.

II. *Nature of This Salvation:*

1. Perfect in work of saving. 1 John 1:7.
2. Present time in application. 2 Cor. 6:2.
3. Universal in its extent. John 3:16; Heb. 2:9.
4. Without cost to the lost. Isa. 55:1; Rom. 6:23.
5. Nearer as reach end of life. Rom. 13:11.
6. Complete in Christ. Col. 2:9-10.
7. Eternal in duration. Matt. 25:46; 2 Tim. 2:10.

III. *The Obedience on Which It Depends:*

1. In order to enter Christ:
  - (1) Faith. Mk. 16:16; John 8:24; Heb. 11:6.
  - (2) Repentance. Acts 2:38; 17:30-31.
  - (3) Baptism into Christ. Mk. 16:16; Gal. 3:27.
2. In order to abide in Christ and be saved at last
  - (1) "Observe all things." Matt. 28:20.
  - (2) "Abide in me" says Christ. John 15:1-8.
  - (3) "He that endureth to the end." Matt. 10:22.

*Conclusion:* Remember now in the day. 2 Cor. 6:2. Tomorrow? Exhortation to all to accept this salvation and do it now.

## DIVINE EMOTIONS

## Genesis 6:5-8

*Introduction:* Man in divine image. Gen. 1:26. Not in physical image, of course, but as a living soul with emotions. Man's emotions akin to God's but weaker, not so holy and often misused—lead into sin. Theme of Divine Emotions needs much study. Some of these emotions are:

*Discussion*

- I. *Pity.* Psalms 103:13; Matthew 18:23-27. Compassion and mercy.

- II. *Hatred.* Define. Prov. 6:16-19; Ps. 119:104; Rom. 12:9.
- III. *Joy.* Luke 10:17-21; 15:3-10. Angels rejoice also.
- IV. *Grief.* Gen. 6:5-6; Mk. 3:5; Heb. 3:10.
- V. *Anger.* Matt. 23:13f; Eph. 4:25-27; Col. 3:5-6.
- VI. *Jealousy.* Ex. 20:3-5; 1 Kings 14:22; 2 Cor. 11:2.\*
- VII. *Disgust.* Rev. 3:15-17 to indifferent Christians.

*Conclusion:* (1) Careful study of emotions necessary; cultivate the good, tame the unruly and crucify the evil. Col. 3:1-10. (2) "More like Jesus" will hold emotions in proper bounds to our happiness and good of others. Christ will help us control if we come to Him.

## ABRAHAM, THE FRIEND OF GOD

James 2:23

*Introduction:* (1) Biographies interesting, especially Bible characters. (2) Abraham's name household word among all peoples. (3) Hence, a study of "Abraham the Friend of God" is worthy of careful consideration.

### *Discussion*

#### I. *Brief Biography of Abraham.*

- 1. Descendant of Noah and son of Terah. (Gen. 5:1 to 11:32.) Twice called of God. (Gen. 11:31, Acts 7:2f; Gen. 12:2f.) Father of many nations. (Gen. 12:3.) Nations blessed through Christ the Seed. (Gal. 3:16.)
- 2. Sorely tried by Jehovah, stood test. Gen. 22; James 2.
- 3. The "father of all them that believe." Rom. 4:11.

#### II. *Reasons Why Called Friend of God.*

- 1. His great faith. Heb. 11:8-10; Cf. v. 6; Jam. 2:17f.
- 2. His prompt obedience. Gen. 12:4; 22:3.
- 3. His devotion to God always. Gen. 12:7; 13:18.
- 4. His peacefulness. Gen. 13:17; Cf. Matt. 5:9.

\* "Jealousy. 1. Suspicion between married persons as to fidelity; 2. Earnest desire and concern for the welfare of others with fear. 2 Cor. 11:2. 3. Hot displeasure and indignation of God. 1 Cor. 10:22."



5. His great hospitality. Gen. 18:1f; Heb. 13:1f.
6. His controlling his house. Gen. 18:19; Cf. 1 Tim. 3:5.
7. His enthusiastic interest in the welfare of others. Gen. 18:23-32; Matt. 22:39.

*Conclusion:* Exhort all to follow Abraham's steps. Rom. 4:12.

## BIBLE ONLY SOURCE OF AUTHORITY IN CHRISTIANITY

### Matthew 17:5

*Introduction:* (1) Divine authority vs. man's. This was freely discussed in Christ's day. "By what authority?" "Who gave thee this authority?" (2) Self-evident that human and divine authority existed. See Matt. 7:28; 8:9; Acts 9:14; Lk. 9:1; John 5:27. Must distinguish or never know which we follow. (3) Since we proclaim Bible only source of authority, we are asked, "Can you prove it?" Observe the following:

### *Discussion*

- I. *Believers Say the Bible Only Source.*
  1. Study Heb. 1:1-2; 1 Cor. 2:13; 1 Thess. 2:13.
  2. Hear Christ. Matt. 17:5; 28:18; Acts 2:1-4.
  3. Holy Spirit works through word. Avoid human reason.
- II. *As Source of Authority, What Is Said?*
  1. See text; Ps. 119:96; Matt. 28:18-20.
  2. Apostles Christ's ambassadors, sent under authority of Christ. 2 Cor. 5:20f; Cf. Luke 10:16.
  3. No succession of apostles, word abides and is taught by faithful teachers. Eph. 3:1-12; 2 Tim. 2:2.
- III. *Bible Our Only Guide (Creed).* Matt. 15:8-9.
  1. Profitable for all things. 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:3.
  2. Illustrate by blue-print of building.
  3. Why did God give Bible, if not *Absolute* guide?

*Conclusion:* (1) One Bible, one church, one law of entrance, one worship. (2) Note Jer. 2:13; 10:23; Prov. 14:12; 1 Pet. 4:11; Rev. 22:18-19. (3) Train orders given to be obeyed. Gospel must be obeyed.

## BLOOD AND REMISSION OF SINS

Hebrews 11:22

*Introduction:* (1) Sin is the most terrible reality known on earth. Experience, history and the Bible verify this truth. (2) Sin terrible if confined to life; its effects reach eternity, lead to eternal punishment of wicked. 2 Peter 2:4-9; Rev. 21:8.

*Discussion*I. *Sin and Blood from the Beginning.*

1. Sin before any law concerning blood. Gen. 3:1f.
2. Blood the life, sin to shed or eat. Gen. 9:4-6.
3. Blood of animals in sacrifices. Gen. 4:1f; Heb. 10:1-11.

II. *Christ's Blood Alone Can Bring Remission.*

1. Remits sins under both old and new covenants. Rom. 3:19-25; Acts 2:38; 1 John 1:7.
2. Blood of animals and Christ's suffering contrasted. Heb. 9:13-15; 10:4; Matt. 26:28; Eph. 1:7.
3. Efficacy of Christ's blood two-fold: (1) Cleanses completely, blood of animals could not. Heb. 10:1-4; Rev. 7:14; 22:14. (2) Brings a new song to saved. Rev. 5:9. "There is a fountain filled with blood."

III. *How the Blood Brings Remission of Sins.*

1. Must walk in humble obedience to God's will. Heb. 12:22-24; 1 John 1:7. This brings fellowship with God and his children.
2. Fellowship is on condition we keep His commands; else God brands us as a liar. 1 John 2:6.
3. The cleansing by the blood is assured if from a pure heart we are fully obedient. See John 4:34; 5:30; 15:10; 1 John 2:1-6; 5:3.

*Conclusion:* (1) Sin brought all evil, all suffering—even death—to man. (2) Sin affects man, angels, earth, heaven, time, eternity and fills hell with disobedient. (3) Therefore, we should accept the Savior's invitation.



## THE SUN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Malachi 4:2

*Introduction:* (1) Bible abounds in expressive figures of speech. (2) Christ, God's Son and our Savior, here as shining "Sun," hence "The Sun of Righteousness."

*Discussion*I. *Description and Characteristics of This "Sun."*

1. Source of all light. Gen. 1:3; John 8:12. Physical sun illustrates many of these ideas.
2. Universal light. Lights all the world. John 1:3.
3. God's only light. Speaks only through His Son. 1 Tim. 2:5; Heb. 1:1-2; Cf. Psalms 119:105, 130.
4. Light shines on evil and good like temporal sun. Matt. 5:45; John 6:44; Rom. 2:4; 5:8-10.
5. Healing in "beams" like physical sun.
6. Benefits are many like physical sun. Changes men.
7. All in darkness (blinded by Satan, 2 Cor. 4:3-4) and lost without these healing beams of the "Sun of Righteousness."

*Conclusion:* (1) Since light appeared "Walk in light," else will be condemned. Luke 12:47f; John 5:39-40; James 4:17. (2) We see greater light, greater opportunities, hence have greater responsibilities. Matt. 11:21f; 2 Peter 2:20-22.

## SANCTIFICATION

John 17:17; Hebrews 12:14

*Introduction:* "Sanctify" means to set apart to special, holy, or a religious purpose or service. (2) The *use* or life of an object or person is changed, *not* the nature. Nature is controlled in Lord's use. (3) Since obedience to God's law is necessary to sanctification, and sanctification itself is necessary to serving God, this theme is both necessary and profitable.

*Discussion*

- I. *Sanctification as Taught in the Old Testament.*
  1. The sabbath by Jehovah. Genesis 2:3; Deut. 5:15.
  2. First-born of man and beast. Exodus 13:1, 2, 12.
  3. Tabernacle, vessels, priests. Lev. 8:10-12; 29:1-9.
- II. *Sanctification in the New Testament.*
  1. Christ Himself. John 10:36; 17:19; 1 Peter 3:15.
  2. The apostles. John 17:15-18.
  3. The church. Eph. 5:25-27.
- III. *How Are People Sanctified?* 1 Peter 4:11.
  1. Through the truth. John 17:17; 1 Cor. 6:11 tells "we are washed, sanctified, justified."
  2. Through "sanctification of the Spirit unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood." 1 Peter 1:2.
  3. Called by the gospel. 2 Thess. 2:12-17; Phil. 3:15-16.

*Conclusion:* (1) Men must be changed when set apart to God's service. (2) Exhortation to walk worthily of calling.

## SANCTIFICATION NOT SINLESS PERFECTION

1 John 1:8

*Introduction:* (1) Sanctification absolutely necessary. Heb. 12:14. (2) Houses, lands, time, persons sanctified. Lev. 27:14f; Neh. 13:32; Ex. 13:2. (3) Important to study to learn whole truth.

*Discussion*

1. *Real Use and Meaning of "Sanctification."*  
Houses, lands, days, Christ never sinned, cannot sin. All men have sinned, must be saved from sins. All these, even Jesus, set apart to God's use.
- II. *Aaron and Sons Set Apart as Priests.*  
Not above sin, sinned grievously. Ex. 29:24; 32:1f. Sons died for sins. Lev. 10:1-2. Then, here sanctification was not sinless perfection.
- III. *New Testament Teaches Same Lesson.*



following shows man and grievous sins done: 1 Cor. 1:10; 5:1; 6:1f; 11:17f; 15:12f. All were sanctified. Chapter 7:14 shows not perfect, if so, an unbelieving husband or wife perfect.

#### IV. *How Sanctified?*

1. Said to be sanctified by Spirit, word, faith, the washing of water, purging of unrighteousness.
2. Obedience to God's law necessary.
3. Everything in God's law attributed to Spirit is also attributed to the word of God. Obey it.

### "EVERY SCRIPTURE INSPIRED OF GOD"

2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:21

*Introduction:* (1) The whole Bible meant; God's book or man's? (2) Evidences both external and internal (name some of each). At first I believed because parents and teachers taught me; later I made a little self-investigation. 1 Thess. 5:21. (3) With Jer. 36:22-23; 1 Kings 18:2f; many college professors and modernistic preachers denying inspiration, we should diligently teach all, indoctrinate the young. Deut. 6:6-9; Eph. 6:1-4.

#### *Discussion*

- I. *The N. T. Books and Their Arrangement.* 1 Thess. 2:13.
  1. These accepted as are since fourth century by enemies and friends. Polycarp made over 200 quotations quoting from every New Testament book. Proof at hand shows existed as are since first century.
  2. Josephus and other unbelievers confirm the truths, the facts as Bible gives them as to life, death, burial and empty tomb of Christ.
  3. Perfect harmony found among writers of different countries over period of 1600 years, with all dialects and translations giving the same truths, facts, commands, promises. Divine guidance seen.

II. *Geography, History, Science Agree with the Bible.*

1. Continents, seas, etc., generally same as in Bible.
2. Bible history indisputable. Note these:
  - (1) Sects arose between testaments.
  - (2) Four world empires (Dan. 2:36; 8:15). Rulers and events of ancient history agree.
  - (3) Daniel 5:1-30 shown true by history of archaeology.
3. Science, the true, always agrees with the Bible.
  - (1) Study Psa. 19:1f. (See "All About the Bible," p. 281.)
  - (2) Job 26:7. (Ibid p. 281; Gospel Advocate, Jan. 19, 1928).
  - (3) Joshua 10:12; Isa. 28:1-8. (Ibid. p. 284.)

III. *Prophecies of Old and New Testaments.*

1. The Old Testament. Rom. 15:4; 2 Peter 1:21.
  - (1) One may write history without inspiration but not foretell it.
  - (2) Concerning Abraham. Gen. 15:13-16.
  - (3) By Moses. Deut. 28:47f; 2 Kings 6:26-29. 558 years.
  - (4) Of Cyrus 150 years before birth. Isa. 44:28.
  - (5) By Jeremiah 20 years before captivity. Jer. 25:11-12.
  - (6) Of the "new name" long before given. Isa. 62:2.
  - (7) Of Christ. Isa. 7:14; 53:1f; Micah 5:2. True to the letter.
2. The New Testament. John 16:13; Acts 1:4-8.
  - (1) Against celibacy. (A.D. 1015.) 1 Tim. 4:3.
  - (2) 1 Cor. 9:5; 1 Pet. 5:1f; Matt. 8:14. Why these?
  - (3) Mark 6:3f vs. "perpetual virginity" of Mary.
  - (4) 2 Tim. 3:1f foretold present in great measure.
  - (5) Matt. 24:1f foretold destruction of Jerusalem.
  - (6) Acts 20:28-30 fulfilled in falling away.
  - (7) Luke 17:20 forbids idea of temporal reign.
3. All these prophecies by inspiration and warning against every false teaching. Texts. Human wisdom could not have given such a book. Believe it, obey it.



## "AS IT IS WRITTEN"

2 Chronicles 30:5

*Introduction:* (1) This is a powerful phrase. Satan routed by it. Luke 4:12. Bible sole guide and authority. Psalms 119:105; Jer. 10:23; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3. (2) Human tendency is to depart from Bible teaching as Israel did though warned by prophets. (The captivities. 2 Kings 17:7f; Joshua 23:11-13; Deut. 13:1f; 18:20.) (3) This is for our learning. Rom. 15:4. Must respect God's law now or suffer later. The law is plain. Isa. 35:8. The church has many times been found wanting in work and worship "as it is written." It is fitting to sing, "Have Thine Own Way Lord" as we study with prayer the following:

### *Discussion*

#### I. *Man Prone to Forsake God's Way.* Prov. 3:5; Isa. 55:8-9.

1. Man in Eden. Gen. 3:1f. Israel. 1 Samuel 8:1-4; Jer. 2:13; 6:16.
2. Temple cleansed from filth and corruption. Occasion of our texts. Cf. 2 Chron. 34:14-21; 35:16-18; John 2:13f.
3. Church, antitype of temple, corrupted. Acts 20:28-31; 2 Thess. 2:1-8 (Dark ages); Rev. 2 and 3. Then followed the "Reformation," later there was great need for

#### II. *The Restoration.*

"As it is written" found its human expression in "Where the Bible speaks we speak, where the Bible is silent, we are silent."

1. Principle set forth by restorers (Campbells, et al.) same as that by Jeremiah, Ezra, Nehemiah.
  - (1) Not a work of a few spasmodic enthusiasts, but a result of a searching of scripture to know and do "as it is written," to please God. Neh. 8:14.
  - (2) Thus the Restorers emancipated from popes and priests and the like to climax Luther's work, 1520.

2. The chief plea of Restorers to "Speak where the Bible speaks," full accords with:
  - (1) A "thus saith the Lord." 1 Peter 4:11.
  - (2) It contradicts the Protestant clergy, "pastors"; delivers from creeds, sects, human names, etc.
  - (3) Christians are neither Catholic nor Protestant in religious work.
3. The task of the Restorers. An effort to:
  - (1) Replace creeds with the Bible, parties and sects with the "one body, the church," Col. 1:18; Human names with the new name, Isa. 62:2; Acts 11:26.
  - (2) Restore the conditions of salvation to aliens "as it is written" in the Great Commission and practiced by the apostles in Acts 2, 8, 9, 10, 16, viz., faith, repentance, baptism; and the law of pardon to erring Christians, Acts 8:22; James 5:16, etc.
  - (3) Set in order congregations after the pattern given in the New Testament with proper worship and organization as taught by Paul, Peter, et al, so all may follow and worship "as it is written."

## WISDOM—TRUE AND FALSE

James 3:13-18

*Introduction:* (1) Define "Wisdom." One may be wise and yet evil. Luke 16:1-8. Satan is. (2) The sources of wisdom—human and divine. Text. (3) Careful study of this lesson necessary if we are wise.

### *Discussion*

- I. *Wisdom of This World.* James 3:13-16.
  1. Earthly.
  2. Sensual.
  3. Devilish.
  4. Causes confusion.



5. Brings about every evil work.
6. Is foolishness with God. 1 Cor. 3:19.
- II. *The Wisdom from Above.* James 3:17-18.
  1. Pure. 1 Timothy 4:12; 5:2.
  2. Peaceable. Rom. 12:18; 14:19.
  3. Gentle. 1 Thess. 5:11-13.
  4. Easy to be entreated vs. self-willed, stubborn.
  5. Full of mercy and good fruits. Phil. 1:11f.
  6. Without partiality. 1 Timothy 5:21-22. Jacob.
  7. Without hypocrisy. Rom. 12:9. Pharisees.

*Conclusion:* (1) Remember evil men are wise in many ways. Solomon wise, yet sowed seeds of division in Israel. Matt. 10:16; Luke 16:8. (2) Exhort to study and apply true wisdom, avoid evil. James 1:16. (3) It is wisdom from above to accept Christ. Come now.

## REST

Matthew 11:28-29; 2 Thessalonians 1:7

*Introduction:* (1) Rest is for weary—only such can rest. Jews has days, years for themselves, servants, beasts, lands. (2) Jesus promises rest to “weary and heavy laden” in His great invitation if they will come to him.

### *Discussion*

- I. *Rest During Old Testament Days.* Rom. 15:4.
  1. God rested from work. Gen. 2:1-4; Heb. 4:11.
  2. Jews rested, sabbath, etc. Ex. 20:8f; Cf. Col. 2:16.
  3. Israel in Canaan. Heb. 4:8-9.
- II. *To Whom Is Rest Promised?*
  1. Not to the
    - (1) Evildoers. Num. 26:63-65; Heb. 3:18.
    - (2) Worshipers of “the Beast.” Rev. 14:11.
    - (3) Unbelievers. Heb. 4:8-9.
  2. But to them that:
    - (1) Fear Jehovah. Heb. 4:1.
    - (2) Learn of Christ. Matt. 11:29.

- (3) Come to Christ. John 6:44.
- (4) Believe on the Lord. Heb. 4:3, 11.
- (5) Take His yoke upon them. Text.
- (6) Are God's true people. (Heb. 4:9; 2 Thess. 1:7.
- (7) Die in the Lord. Rev. 14:13; Cf. Matt. 10:22.

### III. *When Shall We Enter This Rest?*

- 1. When our work is ended. Heb. 4:10.
- 2. After death. Heb. 9:27; Rev. 14:13.
- 3. At the "Judgment." Matt. 25:31-41.

*Conclusion:* (1) Heaven is the Christian's rest. 2 Thess. 1:7. (2) Exhort all to faithfulness. Heb. 2:2-3; 4:1.

## FAITH

Hebrews 11:6

*Introduction:* (1) Faith most important since impossible to please God without it. No act of worship acceptable without it. (2) Contrast faith (text), opinion (Matt. 16:13-14), knowledge (by five senses). (1 John 1:1.)

### I. *Analysis of Faith.*

- 1. What it is. Heb. 11:1.
- 2. How it is produced. Rom. 10:17.
- 3. Object of it. John 4:39-42; 8:25; Col. 1:4.

### II. *Its Characteristics*

- 1. Obedience. Rom. 1:5; 16:26; James 1:12.
- 2. Testimony produces it and it furnishes testimony.
  - (1) By personal contact. Matt. 9:20-21.
  - (2) By personal presence. John 11:21.
  - (3) By hearing word only. Matt. 8:10.
- 3. When sufficiency manifest.
  - (1) Not in heart only. John 12:42-43.
  - (2) Not merely in words. "Say and do not."
  - (3) Must be in actions. Acts 11:21; 2 Cor. 2:5; James 2.

### III. *Its Results*

- 1. Salvation. Luke 7:30; Rom. 13:11.
- 2. Justification. Rom. 5:1.



3. Supports spiritual life. Rom. 1:17.
4. Provides mutual fellowship. Rom. 1:12.
5. Keeps by God's power. 1 Peter 1:5.
6. Protection from darts of evil. Eph. 6:16.
7. Triumph over the world. I John 5:4.

*Conclusion:* (1) Faith, like gold, must be tried to be relied upon. (2) Rely on God's truth and promises, hope awaits your enjoyment, love springs from this enjoyment. Are you enjoying this blessed hope? (3) Your duty to believe, repent, be baptized to be saved, then be faithful to the end. Come today.

## REPENTANCE

Acts 17:30-31

*Introduction:* (1) Important. Luke 13:3, 5. All sin. Rom. 3:23. But little speculation yet all teach repentance. Bible clearly teaches it. Isa. 57:15; 66:2. John taught it. Matt. 3:2. Jesus. Matt. 4:17. The twelve. Mark 6:12. Great Commission. Luke 24:47. Apostles as taught by this authority. Acts 2:38; 8:22; 11:18; text. (2) In all forms word in the Bible (A.V.) 106 times: refers to God 37 times (change of mind or purpose); to man, 69 times (regret or change of conduct). Greek has two words—"metamelomai"—"regret"; and "metaneo"—"change of mind followed by change of conduct, a reformation."

### *Discussion*

- I. *What Repentance Is Not.* 1 Peter 4:11.
  1. Promise to quit sin. *Must* cease. Prov. 28:13; Matt. 3:8.
  2. Godly sorrow. Only leads to repentance. 1 Cor. 7:9-10.
  3. Reformation alone. Old debts must be paid, stolen goods returned or excused from duty. (A. Clark.)
- II. *What Repentance Is.* 1 Peter 3:15.
  1. First effect (fruit) of faith. Unbelievers cannot re-

pent, follow God's goodness (Rom. 2:4), Godly sorrow (2 Cor. 7:8-10) and faith of necessity.

2. Privilege granted by Lord when man believes. Acts 5:31; 11:18; 2 Peter 3:9; Rev. 2:21.
3. Hence, a reformation of life resulting from a proper change of mind. Cf. Matt. 21:28f. Contrast "regret" and "repentance." (See introduction). 2 Cor. 7:8-10, R.V.

### III. *Bible Examples of Repentance.*

1. Jonah. Jonah 3:10; Matt. 12:41.
2. Prodigal's resolution and change. Luke 15:17-18.
3. All conversions. Acts 2, 8, 9, 10, 16; 19:10-20.

(Man in Kentucky stole melons; later went away. He then sent pay saying he had changed life. He repented of that sin, whether truly converted or not.)

## "HE BEING DEAD YET SPEAKETH"

Hebrews 11:4

*Introduction:* (1) Note facts. Genesis 4; text. Good deeds encourage, evil restrains. White crosses on road show death by accident. (2) All influenced by parents, teachers, associates, all. (3) Text a comment by Holy Spirit on life 4,000 years before. It should help us. Written for us.

### *Discussion*

#### I. *Some Facts Revealed.* Text and contexts.

1. Cain killed Abel. Cf. John 3:12.
2. Faith by hearing God's word. Both heard.
3. Both Cain and Abel offered sacrifices.
  - (1) Cain a "minehah," gratitude, a substitute.
  - (2) Abel a sin offering, of flock, "more excellent."
  - (3) Abel showed faith in Messiah. Cf. 2 Cor. 5:21.  
(Word here for sin, about 100 times "sin-offering" in Old Testament.)

#### II. *Contrast the Two Lives.*

1. Cain's: substitution, murder, shame; still speaks.



2. Abel's: faith, obedience, took God at His word; still speaks.
  3. Lesson should be learned and followed by all.
- III. *Other Examples of Dead Speaking.* Note voices.
1. Two Pharaohs. Egypt. Gen. 41:37f; Ex. 9:16f. Hear?
  2. Ruth and Orpah. Ruth 1 to 4. Learn from these.
  3. Hebrew maiden. 2 Kings 5. She speaks fine lesson.
  4. Judas Iscariot. Matt. 27:3-4. Avoid scheme. Watch.
  5. Dorcas. Acts 9:36f. Cf. Mk. 14:3-9. Moses E. Lard.\*
  6. Poor widow. Mk. 12:41-44. Hear her, small givers.
  7. Stephen. Acts 7:1-60. Steadfast to end, forgiving.

*Conclusion:* (1) Our voices will speak to future generations. (2) Exhort to correct living and future voices will help. (3) Answer question, Matt. 27:22; agree with centurion in Mk. 15:39; be not an Agrippa, Acts 26:28; but come now.

## THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

Acts 1:10-11; Revelation 1:7

*Introduction:* (1) Christ's second coming Bible stated fact. "Shall come." (2) We live between first and second advents, an unknown period of time. Mk. 13:33. History and prophecy so show.

### *Discussion*

#### I. *Certainty of His Coming Plainly Taught By.*

Jesus, John 14:1-3. Angels, Rev. 1:7. James (5:7). John, 1 John 3:2. Peter, 1 Peter 1:13. Paul, Phil. 3:20.

#### II. *Manner of His Coming.*

1. "With glory and power." Mk. 13:36.
2. Personally. "This same Jesus." Acts 1:11.
3. Audibly. "Shall hear his voice." John 5:28.

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\* James A. Harding reported Brother Lard asked a drink at a cabin. Woman said, "Take this in the name of Jesus." In a conversation, he agreed to stop on return. He preached a few nights and baptized a few. They met in cabin. Luke 10:37.

4. Visibly. "Every eye shall see." Rev. 1:7.
5. Unannounced. "Ye know not the day." Matt. 25:13.
6. Accompanied by "them that sleep in Jesus." 1 Thess. 4:14-16.
7. "In flaming fire." 2 Thess. 1:7-9.

### III. *The Time of His Coming.*

1. Unknown to man, angels, Christ. Mk. 13:32-35.
2. Known only to God the Father. Mk. 13:32.
3. After resurrection and before judgment. See Matt. 25:31, 34, 41, 46; John 5:27-30; 1 Thess. 4:14-18.

### IV. *Conditions He Will Find on Earth.*

1. Pride and mockery. 1 Thess. 5:2f; 2 Peter 3:3f.
2. Indifference and immorality. Luke 17:26f.
3. Only few saved. Matt. 7:13-14.
4. Wailing and shame. Rev. 1:7; 6:15-17. If all to be saved or if a second chance, why these words?
5. Some will welcome Him. 2 Tim. 4:7f.

### V. *Purpose of His Coming.*

1. Not to teach, invite as at His first. Matt. 25:31f.
2. Not to offer self as a sacrifice. Heb. 9:28.
3. Not to set up kingdom. Matt. 16:28; Mk. 9:1; 1 Cor. 15:22, 24, 28; Col. 1:13; Rev. 1:9.
4. Not to give another chance. Heb. 9:27; Cf. Lk. 16:19f.
5. To raise the dead. John 5:28f; 1 Cor. 15:51f.
6. To judge and separate nations. Matt. 25:31f.
7. To reward everyone according to works. 2 Cor. 5:10.
  - (1) To take vengeance on wicked. 2 Thess. 1:7-9.
  - (2) To eternally save righteous. Rom. 13:11; 2 Tim. 4:8; 1 Pet. 5:4; Rev. 2:10; Matt. 25:46.

### VI. *Our Duty While We Wait for Him to Teach:*

1. Sinners. Great Commission. Acts 2:39-38; Rom. 1:17.
2. Christians. Matt. 28:20; Phil. 2:12; Jam. 5:7.
3. Hold fast to end. Matt. 10:22. Worship aright. John 4:24.



## BROTHERLY LOVE

John 13:35

*Introduction:* (1) One of the two great commands. (Matt. 22:36f.) Cf. Prov. 18:19; Rom. 13:10; Heb. 13:1. (2) Contrast brotherly love with: animal instincts to protect young; the state, its citizens; fraternal, clannish and partisan desires; love for kindred as brotherly love strives to provide temporal and spiritual needs. (3) This lesson as part of Jesus' conciliatory discourse on the night of His betrayal.

I. *What Brotherly Love Is.*

1. Mother's love, husband and wife's (Eph. 5:23), neighbor's love, faintly help to illustrate brotherly love.
2. Supplies temporal and spiritual needs. 1 John 3:15; Acts 6:33; 20:28; 2 Tim. 3:16-17.
3. The good, not feelings, sought. Matt. 18:6; 1 Cor. 8; 10:27-32; apply spiritual surgery. John 15:1-8; 2 Thess. 3:6.

II. *Direct Spiritual Teaching.* 2 Peter 1:3.

1. Love enemies. 1 Samuel 24:1-16; 2 Kings 20:6; Rom. 12:18-21.
2. Love friends. John 11:35; Phil. 2:30; 1 Peter 2:17.
3. Keep unity. Psa. 133:1; Prov. 6:19; Eph. 4:1-2; Phil. 2:3-5; 1 Thess. 4:9; 1 Pet. 4:8; 1 John 2:9. "How sweet, how heavenly is the sight."

III. *Bible Examples of Brotherly Love.*

1. Moses helped brethren. Ex. 2:1f; Heb. 11:24-36.
2. David and Jonathan. 1 Samuel 18.
3. Judah pleading for Benjamin. Touching. Gen. 44:18-33.

In my experience: Three school boys punished. Oldest, after he and younger brother had been punished, arose when third was called and said, "Brother White (I had baptized him), whip me instead of Alonzo. I begged him hard to leave school." I was greatly touched.

*Conclusion:* Repeat and emphasize text. Exhort all to "love one another" as Christ loved.

## THE LOST CHRIST

Luke 2:42-50

*Introduction:* (1) This is not just a story to fill in or entertain. (2) The fact that something is lost creates anxiety and a search is made. The extent depends on the value. Illustrate. (3) The greatness of Christ, His value to mankind, suggests great anxiety and earnest search.

### *Discussion*

#### I. *Jesus Lost to His Mother*—one least expected.

1. Not for lack of appreciation, love or because she could not have known his whereabouts.
2. Not because she was wicked—one of God's faithful.
3. Despite all good traits, she was negligent.

#### II. *Mary Apparently Relied on Supposition.*

1. In business this is not common: deeds, mortgages.
2. Frequent in religion. Jews vs. Paul. Acts 21:29.
3. Individuals and congregations often guilty.
  - (1) God condemns partyism, sects, divisions. John 17:20-21; 1 Cor. 1:10. Yet Christ supposed to be with them "to own and bless"!
  - (2) New Testament says, "Must be born again," should continually obey the Lord (Matt. 7:21), yet average church member supposes Christ is pleased.
  - (3) We are told to "grow." 2 Peter 3:18. Many do not develop but suppose they will be saved when they die.

#### III. *Diligent Search Made for Jesus.*

1. First in own company, then among kindred. *Supposed* He was there. Wrong place.
2. Then to Jerusalem, starting place. Right idea.
3. Too many now search among own kin's religious



groups, human opinions. *Suppose* this is "good enough."

- (1) Reformers erred here—supposed Christ to be in Catholic ranks, hence tried to reform them.
- (2) "To the law and to the testimony." Isa. 8:20. We must return to this, if the lost Christ is found.
- (3) Restorers of the 19th century began with this idea, a back-to-the-beginning idea. Used God's searchlight, the Bible, as guide. Cf. Neh. 8:1f.
  - (a) Christ then preached to all. Great commission.
  - (b) Why lost to so many nations? They, as Mary, supposed Him to be in their company.
  - (c) Restorers realized we must leave suppositions and return to the New Testament teaching which began at Jerusalem. "As it is written." They found Him.

*Conclusion:* Exhort all to leave suppositions for "as it is written." If you have never found Christ, accept Him now. If you have lost Him, will you not now return?

## FRUITFULNESS

John 15:2-8

*Introduction:* (1) Fruit-bearing God's law in material and spiritual worlds. Gen. 1:12, 28; Rom. 1:13; Cf. James 5:7, 8. (2) Both individuals and congregations to be fruitful. We are known by fruits.

### *Discussion*

#### I. *In What Be Fruitful?*

1. In righteousness. Phil. 1:11; Cf. Eph. 5:9.
2. In holiness and eternal life as end. Rom. 6:22.
3. Knowledge and every good work. Col. 1:9-10.

#### II. *The Kind of Fruit to Bear.* Matt. 7:15-20.

1. Worthy of repentance. Matt. 3:8. Illustrate.

2. Peaceable fruit of righteousness. Heb. 12:11.

3. Fruit remaining until ripe. John 15:16.

### III. *How Can We Be Fruitful?*

1. Be a good tree. Matt. 7:17.

2. By cleansing. John 15:2.

3. Abiding in Christ. John 15:4-8.

4. By proper cultivation. Luke 13:6-9.

5. By sowing for cultivation. 2 Cor. 9:10.

6. By liberal giving. Phil. 4:17; Cf. Prov. 3:9-10.

7. Acts with wisdom. James 3:17.

### IV. *Why Be Fruitful?*

1. Lest we be cut off. John 15:2.

2. To be known as disciples. Matt. 7:16; John 15:8.

3. To gain eternal life. John 4:36; Rom. 6:22, 23.

*Conclusion:* (1) Are we bearing good fruit or evil fruit? What kind of tree am I? (2) First fruit God's. Prov. 3:9; Cf. Matt. 21:43.

## FAITHFULNESS

Psalms 143:1; Luke 16:1-12

*Introduction:* (1) Define "faithfulness." (2) God is faithful, wants His children to be faithful.

### *Discussion*

#### I. *Who Is Faithful?*

1. God. Deut. 7:9; Rom. 3:3-4.

2. Christ. Heb. 3:2-6.

3. True Christians. Eph. 1:1. Contrast, Rev. 2:4f.

#### II. *In What Is God Faithful?*

1. In promises. Gen. 22:18; Heb. 10:23.

2. In forgiving. Jer. 31:31-34; 1 John 1:9.

3. In delivering. Gen. 15:13-16; 1 Cor. 10:13.

#### III. *In What Is Christ Faithful?* Parable of talents.

1. In His testimony. John 12:49; Rev. 1:5; 3:14.

2. In His priesthood as Advocate. Heb. 2:17; 1 John 2:1f.

3. In establishing and guarding. 2 Thess. 3:3.



IV. *In What Should Christians Be Faithful?*

1. Caring for poor. 1 Cor. 16:1; Gal. 2:10; 1 Tim. 5:2f.
2. In stewardship. Elders, et al. 1 Cor. 4:2; Titus 1:7.
3. In teaching. 2 Tim. 2:2; 1 Peter 4:11.

V. *Why Should Christians Be Faithful?*

1. One of fruits of Spirit. Gal. 5:22.
2. To overcome, to enter in to be crowned. Rev. 17:14; Matt. 25:1, 10; 2 Tim. 4:6-8; Rev. 2:10.

3. Finally to be with Christ. 1 John 3:2f; Rev. 17:14.  
(Illustrations: An old man on horse in rain passed another brother's home, who decided to go to worship after declining. If the old man could ride in rain, he could go in good carriage half the distance. Be faithful and helpful.)

(Two bags of wheat given to two men. One kept his until it spoiled. The other planted his and raised a good crop. Use the talents and means God has given us.

## "SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES"

John 5:39

*Introduction:* (1) Theme important because of meaning of "search." Acts 17:11. For self-instruction and preparation. Isa. 34:16; Hosea 4:6; 2 Tim. 2:15. To teach and train others. Matt. 28:18-20; John 6: 44-46. (2) Interest needs reviving. Only about 52% of older people attend church Bible classes. Child in day school 30 hours a week; in church school one-half to a full hour per week. From 75% to 90% of church members come from these classes. John 9:4. (3) We need to encourage more diligent and systematic study to stir up our pure minds and to lead sinners to Christ.

I. *General Exhortations and Suggestions.*

1. Careless searching wrong. "Temperate in all things." "Cannot tell summer from winter" etc., not in Bible.
2. Jew's error. John 7:52; overlooked 2 Kings 14:25.
3. Always find a "thus saith the Lord," "as it is written." Jesus did this and routed Satan.

II. *Bible True and Reliable in Its*

1. Geography. Luke 10:30 shows Jericho lower than Jerusalem; see McGarvey on facts as to Mts. Gerazim and Ebal in "Lands of the Bible." Name of seas, lands, continents same now in general.
2. History. Even infidels tell of life of Jesus; Myers, et al tell of Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Roman Empire, Assyria, Syria, etc. Kings Ahasuerus, Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, et al.
3. Science. Always agrees with Bible. Note Job 26:7. (Largest telescopes locate no stars in this space.) Egypt, Greece, China, Palestine, Mexico all have records confirming Joshua 10:12. Rawlinson, an archaeologist (1854-1876) fully confirmed Daniel 5, Belshazzar as king, etc.

III. *Bible Its Own Witness.*

1. Old testament promises true. Micah 5:2f; Jer. 31:15. Sins of godly men plainly told; Jesus endorsed story of Jonah and the whale. Matt. 12:41-42.
2. So-called contradictions not mentioned by Christ. 1 Samuel 24:24 and 1 Chron. 21:24 agree. Read carefully. So with 2 Kings 8:14 and Assyrian history—300 Hebrew talents exactly same as 800 Assyrian talents. So always.
3. Bible teaching clearer by searching: Hosea and Amos tell "sabbath" to cease at noon. Luke 23:44 and Col. 2:14 tells of this darkness. Same true. 2 Chron. 34 and 35; Neh. 8:1f. 2 Kings 5:15, "baptize is 'dip,'" so in Luke 16:24. Search.

**"WHAT THINK YE OF CHRIST?"**

Matthew 22:42

*Introduction:* (1) Important, as eternal destiny depends on answer. Birth, life, death, resurrection, ascension all involved. John 8:24. (2) Text deals with Jesus as "Christ." Acts 5:32.



Many believe in Him as "mere man," not divine. (3) We are studying "Jesus as Christ," "What think ye of Him?" All must answer.

- I. *Christ More Than Mere Man.* "Never man so spake."
  1. His teaching shows this. Matt. 7:29. His answers.
  2. His life—poor, despised, rejected, yet "no fault."
  3. He is founder, builder, head of His church hence we believe in *Him* as Christ rather than in *acts* done.

## II. *Testimony Concerning Christ.* By

1. God. At baptism, Matt. 3:17; transfiguration, Matt. 17:5.
2. Holy Spirit. Gen. 22:18; Isa. 7:14; Gal. 3:16; Acts 2:1-36.
3. Christ's own testimony. To Saul, Acts 26:14f; to John on Patmos, Rev. 1:1; 3:14; Cf. John 8:24.
4. Angels. Matt. 1:21; Luke 1:26; at tomb, Matt. 28:5, 6; John 20:11f; in heaven, Rev. 5:11-12.
5. Demons. James 2:19; Mk. 3:11; Luke 4:41.
6. His friends. John 3:2; 4:39f; 12:1-11f; John the Immerser, John 1:29; 3:29-30.
7. His disciples. Peter, Matt. 16:18; John 6:66f; and Paul, Phil. 2:3f; 2 Tim. 4:6-8.
8. His enemies. Officers, John 7:46; Pilate and wife, Matt. 27:17f; John 19:4.
9. His works. John 5:36. Whose work is greatest in world? John 20:30-31, these world-wide.

*Conclusion:* Hearers, what think ye of Christ? Refuse or obey? Everyone must do one or other. Matt. 27:17f. Accept Him now.

## "TWO-MILE SERVICE"

Matthew 5:41

*Introduction:* (1) Teaching of Jesus in Sermon on Mount important. (2) Custom of ancients forcing men to go journeys. Christ contrasts his teaching with the law and added

traditions—heart versus legalism; service of disciples versus Jews. Matt. 5:17; 5:20; 2 Cor. 8:5f; Gal. 3:10. (3) This called for Jesus' statement, "Go with him two."

### *Discussion*

#### I. *Please God, Not Men.* Eph. 6:5-6.

1. Saul, Israel's king failed. 1 Sam. 15:3f.
2. David succeeded. 1 Sam. 24:1f.
3. Warning to us today. Luke 16:15; John 15:18; Gal. 1:10.

#### II. *Example of Principle Applied.*

1. Lot's wife first mile, failed on second. Gen. 19; Lk. 17:32.
2. Moses went first, failed on second. Num. 20:10.
3. Present day activities. John 3:5; 1 Peter 4:18.
  - (1) Kind not only to gentle but to forward. 1 Peter 4:18.
  - (2) Speak to those who speak and to others. Matt. 5:38f.
  - (3) If forgiven, then forgive. Matt. 6:13-14; Col. 3:12.
  - (4) Make money, then correctly use it. Matt 6:33; Luke 12:21; Eph. 4:28; 2 Thess. 3:10f; Titus 3:14; 1 Tim. 6:1f.
  - (5) Worship not only Lord's day at 11:00 o'clock but be at every service. Matt. 6:33; Heb. 10:25; 13:17. When the elders ask your presence, better act.
  - (6) Worship aright and avoid evil in life. Matt. 5:13, 16; Titus 2:11-12. Here solos, girl or boy quartettes in worship, church ball games, swimming contests, entertainments altogether wrong.
  - (7) Yes, save ourselves but save others, too. Acts 2:40; 8:44ff; 1 Thess. 1:8.

(8) *Love friends - also love enemy*

*Conclusion:* Ordinary gratitude for favors will compel this. Exhort all to obey John 9:4 following idea in Matt. 5:20.



## ALMOST OR ALTOGETHER?

Acts 26:28-29

*Introduction:* Many accidents almost happen, many almost achieve great success, many almost fail. Text serious illustration. Paul before Agrippa represents condition of many.

*Discussion*

I. A Few Illustrative Examples. Rom. 15:4.

1. Lot and family. Almost destroyed, wife almost saved. Gen. 19; Luke 17:32. Cf. 1 Peter 4:18.
2. Nadab and Abihu. Had worship almost right. Lev. 10:1-2. Missed one item in seven. Prov. 18:9; Heb. 2:2-3. *Isa. 2:10*
3. Moses and Aaron. Almost reached Canaan. Num. 20:10. Moses saw the land, yet missed. 1 Cor. 10:6, 11; Heb. 3:12; 4:1.
4. Three Hebrews and Daniel. Almost destroyed yet fully minded to obey God. Saved. Daniel 3:1f; 6:1f; Note Acts 4:19; 5:29; 1 Cor. 15:58.
5. Joshua. Altogether persuaded with his house to obey God at all hazards. Joshua 24:14f. Too many fail to follow Joshua, Abraham, jailor with house.
6. Many disciples fail. John 6:66f; 2 Tim. 4:10.
7. Paul. Altogether like Stephen (Acts 7) determined to remain faithful to the end. 1 Cor. 2:1-2; Phil. 1:3; 2 Tim. 1:12; 4:6-8. Imitate him.

*Conclusion:* (1) Suppose God had almost finished creation—left off man! If Jesus had only almost finished redemption! (2) No hint Agrippa ever obeyed. "Almost is but to fail." Like David, we should realize, "Only a step between me and death." "Scarcely saved" is "almost" lost. Come to the Savior now. *"Almost persuaded" to be almost persuaded*

## THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH—ITS ELDERS

Acts 14:23; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-10

*Introduction:* (1) Elders set in church by Holy Spirit. Acts 20:28. Each church had elders when men were qualified.

*Soul almost destroyed  
all the multitudes*

*Use this  
conclusion*

*this conclusion of a person  
is to be almost saved, and to be almost lost*

Only then prepared for great responsibilities. (2) Christ head, hence elders have no legislative powers, only execute Christ's orders. Matt. 28:18; Eph. 1:22-23. (3) Subject quite worthy of our prayerful consideration.

### *Discussion*

#### I. *A Few General Observations.* 1 Peter 4:11.

1. The church apostolic only with qualified elders.
2. Qualifications for each elder—not for group. As Saul was told what he *must* do, so elders are told the qualifications they *must* have. If *must* is non-essential here, why not in Saul's case? Let us not become sectarian in "non-essentials."
3. A plurality of elders in each congregation but not a plurality of congregations under one elder.

#### II. *The Various Scriptural Names.*

1. Six or seven different names are used.
2. Elders or presbyters if age is considered; bishops or overseers, if work is considered; shepherds or pastors, if nature of service is idea. "Pastor" in the New Testament is never applied to a preacher. Elders are mentioned as God's stewards, have the care of souls.
3. Illustrations: A man may be a son, father, husband, or all according to his relation to others. So is elder, bishop, et al.

#### III. *The Qualifications of Elders.*

1. Timothy and Titus together list about twenty in three groups: ten mentioned by both, five by Timothy not by Titus, five by Titus not by Timothy. Among these at least four not necessarily to be binding on other Christians.
2. Inspiration not listed as qualification—elders came at end of days of inspiration. Yet, elders and others were sometimes inspired at first.
3. How long before elders are appointed depends on how soon the congregation develops men fitted. A man grows into fitness for appointment.



(These notes were the basis of a lecture at Montgomery Bible College, Montgomery, Alabama during "lecture week" in April, 1944.)

## WOMAN AND HER WORK IN THE CHURCH

1 Timothy 5:4-16; Titus 2:3-5; 1 Peter 3:1-2

*Introduction:* (1) God's reason for creating woman. Gen. 2:20. (2) In Old Testament a disgrace, if possible to do so, not to have children. Gen. 1:27; Luke 1:25. (3) Christian women perform church work. This study necessary to know what. 1 Tim. 2:9-14.

### *Discussion*

- I. *Some General Lessons.*
  1. All men and women in the church all the time.
  2. This lesson deals with the church assembled.
  3. 1 Cor. 14:23-33 makes no distinction; verse 34f and 1 Tim. 2:12f limit woman's teaching and work.
- II. *Why Public Teaching Forbidden.*
  1. God so commanded. 1 Cor. 14:34f; 1 Tim. 2:12.
  2. Adam first created, then Eve. 1 Tim. 2:13.
  3. Eve, not Adam, first deceived. 1 Tim. 2:14.
- III. *Woman's Right to Worship Not Questioned.*
  1. Dominion over and teaching men publicly forbidden.
  2. Man subject to Christ, as is the church, not any disgrace, they why should woman's subjection be so counted? Women to teach and train young women. Titus 2:3-5. Teaching men privately, Acts 18:26, and classes no violation of this scripture. A class is not the church assembled.
  3. No woman among apostles, the seventy, elders, or New Testament preachers as evangelists. Phoebe on private business at Rome. (Rom. 16:1.) Sexes fundamentally different, hence dress, hair, many habits differ. But modernly-wise women care little for the Bible.

IV. *Some Dangers to Avoid.*

1. Women in public assembly as leaders in worship.
2. Girls in public speeches in "Young People's Meeting."
3. Bible colleges usually fall in with the world here.

V. *Things Christian Women Can Do.*

1. Marry, bear children, guide the house. 1 Tim. 5:14.
2. Teach classes of children, women, neighbors.
3. Teach misguided women in these matters. Titus 2:3-5.
4. Train others to be wives for elders, preachers, et al.
5. Visit sick, hospitals, poor and needy, make garments as Christians not as societies organized for such.
6. Study to act, and teach others to act, correctly in avoiding modern dressing, hair-cutting, paint, evils of social life much as smoking, drinking, etc.
7. Learn 1 Cor. 11:4f deals with woman's proper appearance before God in worship, not as leader in worship. God Bless our Christian Women!

## THE POWER OF THE WORD

Hebrews 4:12

*Introduction:* (1) Many powers human and divine. Rom. 1:16; 13:1. (2) The word is living, active, not a dead letter. (3) The theme "The Power of the Word" should enlist the careful and thoughtful attention of all.

*Discussion*I. *A Study of Creation.*

God spoke the worlds into existence. Heb. 11:4f; 2 Peter 3:1-7. "God said" ten times in Genesis 1.

II. *A Study of Christ's Words.* John 1:1f.

## 1. His Spoke Words.

- (1) Calmed the sea, "Peace, be still." Mk. 4:39.
- (2) Centurion said, "Speak the word only." Matt. 8:10.
- (3) Raised the dead, "Lazarus, come forth." John 11:43.



2. Jesus quoted the Old Testament. "As it is written."  
Matt. 4:4, 7, 10.
  - (1) New Testament does not have less power than old. Cf. Deut. 8:3.
  - (2) Deeds, mortgages, wills, etc., must be written.
  - (3) Gospel is written word of Lord. Rom. 1:16; 1 Peter 1:25.

### III. *What the Word Is and Does.*

1. The word is the seed of the kingdom. Luke 8:11.
2. It has power, Luke 2:37; Acts 11:14, to:
  - (1) Produce faith, Acts 15:7; Rom. 10:17.
  - (2) Cleanse, John 15:3.
  - (3) Purify, Acts 15:9.
  - (4) Save, Psa. 19:7; James 1:18-21.
  - (5) Sanctify, John 17:17.
  - (6) Guide completely, 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3.
  - (7) Lead to heaven at last, Acts 20:32.
3. All attributed to Holy Spirit said to be done by the word.

*Conclusion:* The power of the word is further emphasized in Luke 16:19-31 where outside power is denied and the word only is given the rich man as sufficient. The same is true today.

## PRAYER

### 1 Timothy 2:1f

*Introduction:* (1) Important word over 500 times in Bible in all forms. (2) Many helpful examples. 1 Samuel 1:9f; Joshua 10:8f; 2 Kings 19:14f; Matt. 12:5; John 17.

### *Discussion*

#### I. *Importance of Prayer.*

1. Neglect of prayer sure sign of backsliding.
2. Necessary in private and public service to God.
3. Necessary for leader to be heard as all pray.

II. *The Five Whats of Prayer.*

1. What prayer is. Define. Incense a type. Had four parts. Prayer complete has four parts: praise, thanksgiving, confession of sin, petition.
2. What to pray for. Matt. 7:11; 1 John 5:14.
3. What time to pray. Psalms 55:17; Dab. 6:10; 1 Thess. 5:17.
4. What attitude. Of heart. Psalm 66:18. Of body. 1 Kings 8:54; Psalm 95:6; Dan. 6:10; Acts 7:60; Acts 20:36. In secret or individual nothing is said definitely as to position.
5. What conditions. Not all prayers answered.
  - (1) Faith. Heb. 11:6; James 1:16.
  - (2) Doing God's will. James 1:22; 1 John 3:22.
  - (3) Abide in Christ. John 15:7; 2 John 9-11.
  - (4) Unselfishness. James 4:3.
  - (5) Humility. 2 Chron. 7:14; 1 Peter 5:5-6.
  - (6) Forgiveness of others. Matt. 6:14f; Col. 3:12.
  - (7) In Christ's name. John 14:13; 16:23; Col. 3:17.

*Conclusion:* Prayer for all. "Pray without ceasing," versus profanity. Praise and thank God as well as plead for blessings. Must give account to God for self.

**"KEEP THYSELF PURE"**

1 Timothy 5:22

*Introduction:* (1) Define "keep." Some seven definitions. Give idea. (2) Paul greatly interested in his son, Timothy. Exhorts. All young men and others should heed.

*Discussion*I. *Things to Avoid.*

Don't often necessary.

1. False matters. Ex. 20:16; Prov. 11:1f; 23:7.
2. Presumptuous sins. Psalm 19:13; Heb. 10:26.
3. Worldly spots. James 1:27; 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17.



II. *Things That Keep Us Pure.*

1. Keep body under. Prov. 4:23; Rom. 12:1; 1 Cor. 9:27.
2. Keep unity of the Spirit. Prov. 6:19; Eph. 4:3.
3. Keep in God's love. Jude 21; Cf. Phil. 4:8.

III. *How to Keep Pure.* 1 Peter 1:19; 2:21.

1. Have proper associates. 1 Cor. 15:33; Cf. 5:9. Solomon's wives led him astray. Let us guard ourselves.
2. Keep heart pure. Prov. 4:23; Matt. 5:8; 12:34f.
3. Obey God fully. John 14:23; 1 John 5:18-21.

*Conclusion:* Purity of body and soul directed by heart. Keep it. Exhort to purity of life in all things. Titus 2:11-12. If not pure, cleanse soul in blood of Christ. Come.

## OUR "SEVERAL ABILITY"

Matthew 25:15

*Introduction:* Difference in men is difference in ability and feeling responsibility. Keep promises, pay debts, be courteous. In the congregation each has his work both in public and private as well as in the home. The kind of member rather than kind of church determines destiny. "If every member..."

*Discussion*I. *Ability Brings Responsibility.*

1. Two-fold.
  - (1) Doing. Acts 1:2; 10:38.
  - (2) Teaching. Matt. 5:19; 1 Cor. 9:16.
2. Three-fold.
  - (1) To self. Acts 2:40; 20:28.
  - (2) To neighbor. Matt. 7:12; 22:36.
  - (3) To God. Matt. 22:36; 6:33.

II. *Ability Measure of Responsibility.* Mk. 1:8.

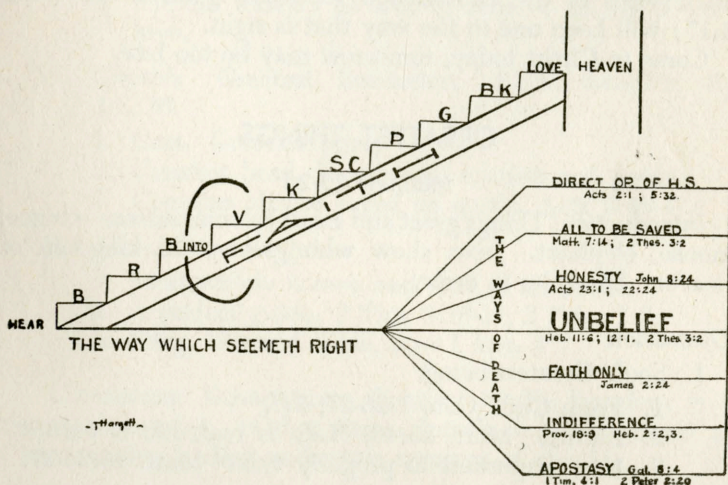
1. Parable of talents. Matt. 25:15f; Luke 12:47f; Rom. 14:12.
2. See in giving. Acts 11:28, 29; 1 Cor. 16:1-2.
3. Keeping from sin. Ezek. 18:19f; 2 Cor. 5:10-11.

III. *Ability and Responsibility Personal Matters.*

1. Old Testament examples. Num. 1:51-52; 2 Sam. 12:7; 1 Kings 13:f.
2. New Testament examples. Eph. 4:16; Col. 2:19; Rom. 14:12.
  - (1) Ten virgins. Matt. 25:1-3. Each responsible.
  - (2) Efforts of man healed. Mk. 5:19-20.
  - (3) Jesus' lesson to Peter. John 21:22.
3. Man once asked me what to do with surplus wheat, had so much he was perplexed. The church building never had been painted, failed to support meeting, and a world of lost souls to save needed it.

*Conclusion:* We might add Moses. (Heb. 11:24-26). Joshua. (Joshua 24:14.) Felix and Agrippa utterly failed to realize responsibility. What will each of you do?

## THE WAY WHICH SEEMETH RIGHT. PRO. 14:12





Man hears the gospel. Some obey, some do not. Fork in the diagram suggests two courses. The upward, right one, leads into Christ, then on in upward march toward and, finally, into eternal glory. The lower course—"The Way Which Seemeth Right"—leads to eternal destruction through many ways which are the "Ways of Death." Seven are here and others may be used.

These scriptures are helpful: Isa. 55:9; 35:8; Jer. 10:23; Acts 17:11; 1 Cor. 5:7; Heb. 11:6; 1 Peter 4:11; Rev. 22:18-19; Prov. 12:15; 30:12; 2 Peter 1:12.

Direct operation of Spirit rejects need of Bible to teach. All saved idea disbelieves Bible. (2 Thess. 3:2; Mark 16:16.) Honesty alone a violation of our text and contradicted by Paul who as Saul of Tarsus was honest as any. (Acts 23:1). Unbelief is central idea and cause of all others. (Heb. 12:1f). Faith only has no scriptural foundation and makes all obedience unnecessary and contradicts God. (James 2:24). Indifference easily and quickly follows the others. (Heb. 2:2-3.) Apostasy is clearly taught and the result of the foregoing errors.

Daily Bible study, frequent prayers, faithful attendance on all services of the church and following good works (Col. 3:17) will keep one in the way that is right.

Come to Christ today, tomorrow may be too late.

## GREATEST THINGS

Matthew 20:20

*Introduction:* Things great and small by comparison—chigoe, mouse, elephant. Jesus show who greatest in kingdom of heaven. Disciples in error.

### *Discussion*

#### I. *Soul.* Greatest being.

1. From God. Gen. 1:26-27; 2:7.
2. Eternal. Matt. 25:46; "Life is real, life is earnest."
3. How important to properly value! Matt. 16:24-27.

II. *Sin*. Greatest curse in time or eternity.

1. Cost one half of all national income in peace, more in war.
2. Causes crime, war, and all other evils. Satanic.
3. Causes death, temporal and spiritual. Christ's.

III. *Love*. Greatest principle in salvation of mankind.

1. Not to love the world. 1 John 2:15-17.
2. Love toward self, neighbor, God. Test. John 14:23.
3. Illustrate: Fill glass with water; put in sand, gravel. Water goes out. Glass full of sand, etc. So heart and life. Love of God drives out evil.

IV. *Blood*. Greatest remedy. Power in blood.

1. Contrast animals vs. Christ. Heb. 9:10-12.
2. Life in the blood. Not eaten. Gen. 9:4; Acts 15:29.
3. Blood on door in Egypt. Christ the door.

V. *Gospel*. Greatest power. Rom. 1:16.

1. Gospel in purpose, promise, prophecy, preparation, perfection.
2. Contrast with the law.
3. Applies remedy to soul to remove sin by power of love.

VI. *Church*. Greatest institution. Blood bought. Eph. 3:8, 10.

1. Cost. Greatest price.
2. Greatest head, foundation, mission and guide.
3. Contains all the saved on earth. Acts 2:46-47.

VII. *Bible*. Greatest guide.

1. Most widely known and read of all books.
2. A perfect guide. 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3.
3. Song, "Blessed Bible, how I love it . . ."

*Conclusion:* Exhortation. Greatest in the kingdom is the greatest servant. (Other items: Lord's Supper, greatest memorial, etc. I often make two sermons of this.)



## CHRISTIANS AS WATCHMEN

Ezekiel 3:16-18; Mark 13:37

*Introduction:* (1) Lesson from watchmen on walls to look out for enemy. (2) Old Testament warnings needed. Rom. 15:4. Ezekiel had care and welfare of Israel. We must receive and teach the Lord's instructions and warnings. Responsibility! (3) This lesson helpful to Christians because: preach for edification, pray for present and eternal welfare, and watch for spiritual safety here and hereafter.

*Discussion*I. *Ancient Walled Cities and Watchmen to Watch.*

1. Nehemiah and men rebuilding walls. Neh. 4:15-20.
2. Tower on wall around Ft. Marion, St. Augustine. (An altar of prayer when I looked out on ocean during meeting there with J. D. Derryberry. First meeting there so far as I know.)
3. Temporal Jerusalem type of spiritual Zion. Let all Christians watch as we build. Cf. Ezekiel 33:1-6, 10-17.

II. *All Christians Must Be Watchmen.*

1. We use "sword of the Spirit" only. Eph. 6:17.
2. God will require others' blood if we fail. Ezek. 18:19-24; Deut. 8:3, "As it is written."
3. Who are the watchmen.
  - (1) Parents watch children. Prov. 22:6; Eph. 6:1-4.
  - (2) Elders watch after flock. Acts 20:28; Heb. 13:17.
  - (3) Preachers. 2 Cor. 11:28. All Christians. Mk. 13:37; 1 Thess. 5:1, 6, 8.

*Conclusion:* (1) If we watch as we should will save ourselves and others. (2) On journey, must watch so as not to ditch car. Apply. (3) Since there are those who watch for your welfare, dear sinner, come to the Savior now while it is day. John 9:4.

## FUNERAL SERMON FOR CHRISTIAN MAN

Job 14:1f; John 14:1f; Revelation 22:14

1. Christian lands have such funerals. Object not to help or harm deceased—that is impossible. We may benefit at least some living, comfort them, and honor Christ. Christ spoke to living at Grave of Lazarus. We may do likewise. We often fail to show enough respect in life with flowers and kindnesses. Do not wait.

Seven cities strive for Homer dead,  
When Homer living begged his daily bread.

2. Death is God's unalterable decree since Eden. And man, like the grain, must die to live again in a glorified body. 1 Cor. 15:35-50; 1 John 3:1-2.

3. The soul's deparature may be likened unto a man's moving out of a poorer house into a better. 2 Cor. 4:18; 5:4.

4. In John 14:1f we find suggested these things: (1) None better fitted to prepare mansions than Christ. (2) None better fitted to intercede as High Priest. (3) None better to come for His jewels and escort to heavenly home for eternity.

5. Brief study of Psalms 116:15. Why this true: (1) Freed from temptation, disease, death forever. (2) Gives promotion so can dwell "on higher ground." (3) Gives best association in home "just over there." Matt. 8:11 tells Abraham, Isaac, Jacob there. Think of Noah who, for 600 years associated with his grandfather, Methuselah, who spent 243 years in Adam's company, and Lamech who was with Adam 56 years!

6. French nurse who nursed Voltaire wished to nurse no other infidel. Robert G. Owen thought he had great advantage over Alexander Campbell and other Christians because he had no fear of hell. Campbell replied, "You are like that ox grazing over there, you have no hope to cheer." Rom. 8:24.

7. This brother's hope is based on two things: (1) His being born again. John 3:5. (2) His being faithful to the end. Matt. 10:22; 1 Cor. 15:58. Hence can say, Rev. 14:13 and apply 1 Thess. 4:18.



## A MARRIAGE CEREMONY

Marriage is a divine institution. It is the older of God's two—the home and the church. It is the foundation of society, the home and the church.

God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone, I will make a helpmeet for him." Then God cause a deep sleep to come upon Adam, took a rib from which he made wo-man. He took this not from his head lest she rule over him; nor from his feet lest she trample upon him; but from his side that she might be under his protection, ever to remain near and dear to him. Then woman became man's equal and one flesh with him.

This union is not merely legal and fleshly, it also represents and illustrates the oneness between Christ and his church. Mind, heart and soul become one together. When beauty fades from the cheek; luster from the eyes; when steps become tottery and wrinkles become transformed into beauty spots; the gray locks "like silver threads among the gold"; while true love in its ever increasing devotion will steady the tottering steps toward the tomb; true happiness will accompany all faithful unto that "perfect day" where the great marriage feast for eternity will be enjoyed.

Marriage is a life-long contract. Divorce is not obtainable scripturally save for one sin only, adultery, unfaithfulness to marriage vows. (Matt. 19:9.)

If there is any scriptural reason for not completing this contract, speak now, or forever hold your peace.

Join right hands, please. (Mutual pledges made.)

(For ring ceremony.)

To groom: "Any token of your love and affection?" Best man hands ring to minister. He makes a few appropriate remarks.

To bride: "Do you accept this ring as a token of his true love and affection?"

To groom: "Then please place it on her finger."

Minister with hand on their joined hands says, "By the authority of this license and the higher authority of Jehovah I pronounce you *husband* and wife." (Never say, "Man and wife," he is a man already.) Closing benediction. Congratulations.

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